

STARS AND STRIPES®

**Remembering the
Battle of the Bulge
60 years later**
Travel magazine inside

Statue of Gen. George S. Patton Jr. in Luxembourg



**Inside today:
An updated
map of Iraq**



**ABC apologizes
for steamy TV
football intro**
Page 48

Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens

Actress Nicolette Sheridan



Volume 63, No. 215 © EPSS 2004

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004

50¢

Active-duty soldiers joining Guard in fewer numbers

Retention high, but recruiting rate worries Guard commander Page 4

**'We've got TV,
running water
and electricity'**

No pools and
no fast-food joints,
but GIs adore
ugly duckling
FOB Wilson

Page 8

Sgt. Lamar Waring, 24, of the 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery from the North Carolina National Guard, watches a gate at Forward Operating Base Wilson, Iraq, with two weapons ready: his rifle and his fly swatter.

STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes



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Kate Winslet

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Train safety checks: Federal regulators are increasing safety checks of Union Pacific Railroad in response to five accidents since May that have killed four people and spilled hazardous materials.

Retraining managers who test workers on safety rules and taking other steps to improve safety are part of a compliance agreement between Union Pacific, a unit of Union Pacific Corp., and the Federal Railroad Administration.

The FRA also reassigned federal inspectors from nine other offices to supplement its inspection staff in San Antonio, where the accidents have occurred. Federal regulators in the agreement that they continue to find deficiencies in Union Pacific train and engine crew compliance with operating rules.

Christian alliance: U.S. Roman Catholic bishops voted Wednesday to join a new alliance that would be the broadest Christian group ever formed in the United States, linking American evangelicals and Catholics in an ecumenical organization for the first time.

The alliance, called Christian Churches Together in the U.S.A., is set to kick off next year. It also would include mainline Protestants, Orthodox Christians, and black and other minority churches.

Murdering nurse: The nurse who admitted killing up to 40 patients in New Jersey and Pennsylvania pleaded guilty Wednesday to six murders and three attempted murders.

Charles Cullen appeared in a Lehigh County, Pa., courtroom to enter the plea, which was announced last month.

With his latest admission, Cullen now has pleaded guilty to giving fatal medication overdoses to 23 people and nonfatal overdoses to five others during his 16-year career.

All of Cullen's victims were seriously ill, but not all were expected to die soon when he delivered his poison, prosecutors said.

Serial killer trial: A day after jurors in Pontiac, Mich., began deliberating in a murder trial aimed at keeping a confessed serial killer behind bars, the judge removed one of the jurors and replaced him with an alternate.

Coral Eugene Watts, who has confessed to 13 slayings, is on trial in the December 1979 murder of Helen Dutchess in the Detroit suburb of Ferndale. If convicted, Watts, 51, faces a mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole.

The juror was dismissed for going to the crime scene, said Ronald Kaplovitz, Watts' defense attorney. The judge learned about it because the juror mentioned it to his fellow jurors.

Big Dig leaks: Leaks in Boston's Big Dig



Supporter spec: Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Penn., right, puts his arm around Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, as they talk with reporters Tuesday in Washington. Specter picked up fresh support Wednesday in his bid to become Judiciary Committee chairman as he prepared to make his case to Republican senators worried about whether he'll support President Bush's judicial nominees. "I expect him to have the support of the committee," said current chairman Hatch.

highway tunnel system are more widespread than state officials have acknowledged, and top construction managers had warned as far back as 1998 about problems that could cause failures in tunnel waterproofing, the Boston Globe reported Wednesday.

Earlier this month, independent engineers hired by the state to investigate a huge September leak in the Interstate 93 tunnel said the \$14.6 billion Big Dig tunnels, which sit almost entirely within the salty water table underlying downtown Boston, were riddled with more than 400 leaks. Project managers and state officials have insisted that the tunnels are safe for motorists.

Tobacco lawsuit: The tobacco industry urged a federal appeals court Wednesday to throw out a decision allowing the Justice Department to seek \$280 billion from cigarette-makers for allegedly misleading the public about the dangers of smoking.

The government brought the case, now being heard in U.S. District Court, under a 1970 civil racketeering statute originally designed to prosecute mobsters.

Industry lawyer Michael Carvin told a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit Wednesday that the civil RICO statute doesn't allow the government to recover money in the ongoing lower court case.

World

Kosovo politics: The party that won Kosovo's general elections decided Wednesday to form a coalition with a smaller party led by a former rebel leader, paving the way to form a new government soon, officials said.

Democratic League of Kosovo, the party led by Kosovo's current president Ibrahim

Rugova, will form a coalition with the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK), which placed third in Kosovo's general elections held last month, said spokesman Luizim Zeneli.

Rugova's party got 45 percent of the vote in the last month's general elections but failed to gain the absolute majority to govern alone in this U.N.-run province. The smaller alliance, headed by Ramush Haradinaj, finished third with 8 percent.

A few other smaller parties will also join the coalition, Zeneli said.

German official extradition: A Paris appeals court ruled Wednesday that a German former defense official accused in his homeland of accepting bribes can be extradited to Germany.

Holger Pfahls, arrested July 13 in Paris on an international warrant after a five-year search, can still appeal the ruling.

Pfahls' lawyer had argued that too much time has passed for him to be extradited for acts he allegedly committed as long ago as 1991. Pfahls had said in court that he does not want to be extradited.

Business

Enron scandal: Federal officials are investigating a \$1.3 million stock sale called for by the wife of former Enron Chairman Kenneth Lay just days before the energy company went under, the couple's lawyer says.

Attorney Mike Ramsey, in Wednesday's editions of the Houston Chronicle, described the probe of Linda Lay for possible insider trading as "a low and dirty blow." Ramsey said Linda Lay requested that their family foundation sell 500,000 Enron shares to pay charitable obligations.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Navy's top admiral: Bad behavior is unacceptable

Comments are follow-up to skit that showed sex toy

By SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — The U.S. Navy's top commander in Europe delivered a blunt message to senior enlisted sailors and officers: If you want to be a good leader, you have to behave like one.

Adm. Michael Mullen, commander of Naval Forces Europe, told several hundred officers and chief petty officers in a closed-door meeting in Rota on Tuesday that he has high expectations for personal conduct, especially overseas.

A skit two months ago in which soon-to-be chief petty officers showed a sex toy served as Mullen's prime example of what not to do.

The Sept. 9 incident happened a month before Mullen took command, but he said it "stood out as an example of poor leadership and lack of professionalism."

"I really wanted to emphasize that our actions speak a whole lot louder than our words do," Mullen told Stars and Stripes in a phone interview from Naples, Italy, after returning from Rota. What happened at the skit "really appalled me and I wanted to make sure they understood that," he added.

Mullen, who also heads NATO's Joint Forces Command Naples, is visiting U.S. Navy bases in the region.

This was his first trip to Rota since taking command on Oct. 8. The importance of leadership development and personal behavior is one of his top priorities as commander.

He said Navy leaders must pay attention to the

sailors under their command and do their best to reduce such off-duty activities as alcohol abuse, drug use and suicide. If senior enlisted sailors and officers do not intervene, he said, it could affect the mission of the fleet.

"I will do everything I can to make sure that doesn't happen," Mullen said.

The incident involving the sex toy started out as a gag but led to an investigation and the delay of the chief petty officer pinning ceremony.

Soon after news spread about the skit, the investigation became an issue of debate in the chief community across the globe.

While some acknowledged that it was wrong, some thought the issue was overblown and should have been dealt with among the chiefs.

It happened during chief initiation, or what the Navy calls the "transition" process. First-class petty officers selected to chief traditionally go through a six-week initiation before the culminating pinning ceremony.

In front of a crowd of only base chief petty officers, a sailor twice briefly displayed a vibrator.

Capt. John Orem, commander of U.S. forces in Rota, took nonpunitive administrative action against the 13 chief petty officers involved in the skit and against those responsible for organizing the event. However, base officials would not go into details of the action taken.

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Mullen

2 generals join SETAF for tour in Afghanistan

By KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — At small Caserma Ederle, there are usually not a lot of people for colonels to salute.

Brig. Gen. Jason Kamiya, in line for his second star, is the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) commander. But other than that, it's only when other general officers visit the isolated Army outpost that there's any more star power on base.

That's changed recently, with Brig. Gen. James "Greg" Champion and Brig. Gen. John Sterling Jr. now calling the base home at least until they deploy along with much of the base population to Afghanistan.

Both admit to getting a few second looks while walking around base. By comparison, Sterling, a deputy commander for U.S. Army Europe — is one of about a dozen American general officers



Sterling

new to Vicenza. "He's a total stranger to Vicenza," he said. He says his USAREUR connection means he's not a total stranger to Vicenza. "Although a lot of the soldiers in the 173rd Airborne Brigade might see me as somebody new coming in, I'd like to think that — at least for those on the SETAF staff — I'm someone they know," he said Wednesday during an interview in his office.

If not, they'll get plenty of opportunities to get to know their two new leaders. SETAF is set to lead Combined Joint Task Force-76 in Afghanistan early next year. Much of the SETAF contingent is going for the year-long tour, but so are a host of elements from Germany and the States.

Champion, director and information and management for the Alabama National Guard, is no stranger to Afghanistan. He commanded a group of special operations forces for six months starting in September 2002.

"It's not a new thing for me and that's probably why I was picked for this position," he said.

In some ways, he said, the environment in the country has changed. U.S. forces aren't constantly battling insurgent elements today like they are in

Iraq. "Clearly, we are moving toward predominantly stability operations and moving toward helping the Afghan government continue their progress," he said.

In another way, though, some aspects of Afghanistan haven't changed. The country is one of the poorest in the world and — unlike Iraq — never had much in the way of infrastructure outside the large cities.

That's where Sterling's unit, the 18th Theater Army Engineer Brigade, comes in. Although he'll be giving up command of the brigade to assume his post as deputy commander, much of Sterling's time will be focused on the rebuilding effort the United States, its NATO allies and international aid organizations have been conducting.

"There's a lot of work to be done in Afghanistan," he said. "You feel pretty good when you're able to see every day the changes you're making to make things better."

The 18th normally consists only of a headquarters element. So battalions from the States will be attached to it during the rotation. That's true for the task force across the board.

SETAF, smaller in size than many traditional brigades in the Army, will be joined by the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade and a handful of smaller units based in Germany.

"Most divisions don't have as much experience operating joint commands as SETAF has," Sterling said. "But what most divisions have is a lot more people than SETAF has."

Getting all those people on the same page has been a priority in recent months.

"There is a challenge to get everyone together," Champion said. But both generals say that a recent exercise in Grafenwohr, Germany, helped to do that. Another one set in January will further the process.

"It will be a good, well-functioning team by the time we deploy to Afghanistan," Sterling said.

"And we're well along that way right now."

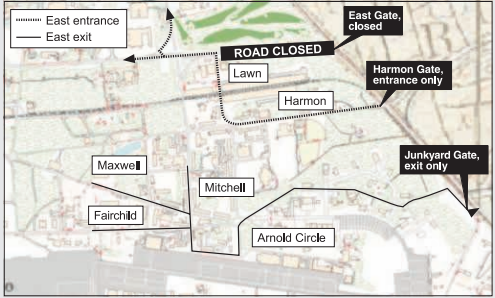
E-mail Kent Harris at: harris@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Correction

The map accompanying a story in Wednesday's edition about the East Gate at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, closing for two months was incorrect. The correct map is below:

Getting on and off Ramstein Air Base

Starting Thursday, Ramstein Air Base's East Gate will not be open to those seeking to enter or exit the base from the east. Harmon Gate, which is just south of East Gate, will be used to get on base, and cars will exit the base by way of Junkyard Gate. The construction site at East Gate is expected to last until mid-January.



Source: U.S. Air Force

Stars and Stripes

Many active-duty GIs not moving to Guard

Only 58 percent of targeted soldiers opt to stay in service as Guardsmen

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Just more than half of the 7,000 active-duty soldiers that the Army National Guard sought to transition into its ranks did so in fiscal 2004, according to a Guard official.

The Guard managed to recruit just 3,900, or 58 percent, of those soldiers, during the one-year period that ended Sept. 30, according to Guard spokesman Lt. Col. Michael Jones.

Such soldiers are one of "three funnels that fill up the tub" for the Guard's recruits, Jones said in a Wednesday telephone interview.

The other two sources of recruits are people with no prior service who are recruited at the state level; and people who have served in the military, but left for some time before deciding to join the Guard, Jones said.

Soldiers who make an immediate transition to the Guard, with no break in service, are a treasured resource because their training, physical conditioning, experience, and proven record of success in the military all are up to date, said Lt. Gen. Roger Schultz, director of the Army National Guard.

Schultz spoke Friday at the annual Military Reporters and Editors Conference in Arlington.

By comparison, "we've had years in the past when [as many as] 10,000 [active-duty] soldiers joined the Guard," said Schultz.

Retention, meanwhile, or the number of guardsmen who chose to stay, "was great," 99.8 percent in fiscal 2004, Jones said.



OHIO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/AF

Spec. Jimmy Gutknecht of the Ohio Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 612th Engineer Battalion, right, shares a moment with his son Jimmy, after a ceremony in Toledo on Friday marking the soldiers' coming Iraq deployment. War-weary soldiers increasingly are opting out completely, rather than joining the National Guard, after their active-duty service is completed.

"We were surprised," Jones said. "Retention exceeded what we thought."

The higher-than-expected retention helped the Guard finish the year with 342,918 soldiers, or 98 percent of end strength, Schultz said.

To maintain its authorized end strength of 350,000, the Guard needed to recruit

56,000 soldiers in fiscal 2004 but ended up with about 88 percent of that total.

"We missed by 8,000" soldiers, Schultz said.

And after holding conversations with active-duty soldiers deployed to Iraq, the three-star general told a roundtable on reserve and National Guard issues at the con-

ference that he is convinced that "nothing" will persuade these war-weary soldiers to jump straight into the Guard.

"I don't think there's a thing in the world we can do" to change these soldiers' minds, Schultz said, even though Congress added bonuses and benefits to the 2005 National Defense Authorization for reservists.

"Money won't drive everything right now," Schultz said.

"It's not that these soldiers have a bad attitude," resenting the Army for sending them to combat zones for a year or more, Schultz said. "It's just that they need a break, and they've figured the deal out."

"The deal" is the realization that joining the Army National Guard no longer means immunity for deployments, he said.

The Army National Guard is adding another 1,000 recruiters before the end of the year to boost its end strength, but Schultz said he remains worried about strains on the force.

Staying up to strength is vital for the Guard because the pace of the Army's reserve deployments continues to be at an historical high.

As of mid-November, more than 93,000 National Guardsmen were either deployed or preparing for deployment, Schultz said, and in Iraq, reservists now account for 40 percent of the U.S. force.

And the third rotation of U.S. forces to Iraq, which is slated to begin next February or March, will include even more reserve and Guard soldiers than the first two rotations, Army officials have said.

"The question is how long can we keep this up?" Schultz said.

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Informative visit



AMY PIETROWSKI/Courtesy of DODDS

Warren Miles, author of "Zlata's Diary," visited last week with sixth-graders at Mannheim Middle School, Germany. Miles' book recounts the experiences of a young girl who lived in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, during the Balkan conflict in the early 1990s. During his visit to Mannheim, Miles explained the background of the conflict, tracing how Serbs, Croats and Islamic Bosnians had joined together along with other Slavic groups to form the modern post-war state of Yugoslavia. He clarified how, after the death of Yugoslavia's leader, Josip Broz-Tito, the various groups began to seek their independence, a movement which eventually resulted in war.

Families welcoming single troops into home for Thanksgiving meal

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

Carrie Smith is a sucker for the single soldier.

And a whopping meal.

She and her husband, Pvt. Robert Smith, a Baumholder, Germany-based Bradley fighting vehicle mechanic, volunteered to open their Baumholder home Thanksgiving to a gaggle of unmarried soldiers and a few wounded troops recuperating at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's outpatient Kleber Casern facility.

This year is Smith's first Thanksgiving away from the bustling holiday of more than 20 relatives who gather at her grandmother's Vacaville, Calif., home. And with an expected guest list of some 10 troops — if not more — plus the Smith family of five themselves, her intention was not to re-create the bustle of her childhood Thanksgiving, but rather to offer a holiday home to troops who otherwise might be alone, she said.

"I think we just wanted to create something nice for them. I'm a sucker for the single soldier and they don't have anywhere to go, so we thought we'd bring them over here," Smith said.

She's not alone.

Fifty-five families so far in the Baumholder area have had the same idea. They answered a call from the Baumholder Red Cross station to host wounded troops at their homes for Thanksgiving dinner, assistant manager Glenn Alexander said.

Others from the Kaiserslautern Military Community American Red Cross station have signed up for

the program, dubbed Adopt-A-Hero, to open their homes to troops from all services wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Barbara Johnson, assistant manager for the station.

The spirit of giving has spread regionwide, and not just during the holidays, said LRMCC spokeswoman Marie Shaw.

Year-round, German and American families have been hosting diners for wounded troops able to leave the hospital or outpatient facility, donating clothing and toiletry items, and organizing day trips to various German sites, Shaw said.

Volunteers have signed up to bring Thanksgiving feasts to feed hundreds of troops who stay behind at Kleber Casern.

More than 65 troops are scheduled to visit volunteers' homes, and another 150 more will be welcomed at the Medical Transition Detachment at Landstuhl, said platoon Staff Sgt. Albert Farrar at the MTD.

"We have a lot of volunteers that are doing a stand-up job volunteering meals, themselves and their time to basically provide a great Thanksgiving for the deployed warriors residing here."

Troops will feast on delights like that at the Smith household, including not only turkey, but a large ham accompanied by sweet potatoes, stuffing, greens, macaroni cookies and pumpkin pies. All of which the 26-year-old mother of three girls, ages 5, 3 and 8 months, will prepare herself.

"We feed the soldiers shouldn't have to be alone for Thanksgiving since they don't have any family over here," she said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Changes at the top for AF, Army secretaries

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Air Force Secretary James Roche resigned and the Senate confirmed defense industry executive Francis J. Harvey as secretary of the Air Force, the service's top civilian post.

The roll call vote Tuesday on Harvey was 85 to 12, capping a long and convoluted series of moves that began when Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld fired Thomas White from the Army secretary job in May 2003 and initially asked Roche to give up his Air Force post to replace White.

Roche was nominated for the Army post, but got caught up in a series of controversies and conflicts with members of Congress over Air Force contracting decisions and other issues. He withdrew his nomination last spring, and remained as secretary of the Air Force.

Harvey was nominated two months ago, but his Senate confirmation vote was put off until after the Nov. 2 elections.

AF secretary resigns; Senate confirms new Army secretary

It was widely expected that Roche would leave the Air Force before President Bush began a second term.

In a brief statement, the Pentagon said Roche had informed Rumsfeld in early October "of his intention to complete his service at the end of the first Bush administration."

The statement gave no more specific reason for Roche's departure.

Roche issued a brief statement saying, "We have successfully met many pressing national security issues facing the nation and the Air Force, especially in the global war on terrorism."

Roche did not mention why he decided to leave. A spokesman, Air Force Col. Jay DeFrank, said the White House had not pressured Rumsfeld to seek Roche's departure.

"He leaves the Air Force now

so that his resignation may free up nominations of Air Force general officers that have been on hold in Congress," DeFrank said. Some of those hamstringing nominations are connected to investigations into sexual harassment at the Air Force Academy.

Roche was an executive at Northrop Grumman Corp. before becoming Air Force secretary in 2001.

"Jim Roche has led the Air Force during an important period in history," Rumsfeld said in a written statement issued at the Pentagon.

There was no immediate word on a likely successor. The Pentagon said Roche planned to leave Jan. 20, 2005, or sooner in the unlikely event that the Senate confirms a successor by then.

Navy Secretary Gordon England has not said whether he intends to remain for a second Bush

term.

Separately, the White House withdrew the nomination of Lawrence Di Rita to be assistant

secretary of defense for public affairs, to replace Victoria Clarke, who resigned for personal reasons in June 2003.

Di Rita's nomination was submitted to the Senate on Nov. 21, 2003, but was not acted on because of a dispute between Sen. John McCain of Arizona and the Pentagon over an Air Force leasing deal with Boeing Co.

Pending Senate action on his nomination, Di Rita for the past year has performed the duties of chief spokesman for the Pentagon.

He is one of Rumsfeld's closest advisers, and it was unclear Tues-

day whether he intended to remain at the Pentagon during a second Bush administration.

Di Rita, traveling with Rumsfeld in Ecuador on Tuesday, told reporters he wasn't leaving immediately and had no specific plans.

He suggested he withdrew his nomination because he did not intend to hold the position over the long term.

Harvey, 59, replaces White, who was fired by Rumsfeld on May 9, 2003, after a series of disputes over the scope and pace of the Army's force modernization. Since then, the Army's No. 2 civilian official, Les Brownlee, has served as the acting Army secretary.

During the floor debate on Harvey's nomination, Democrats and Republicans praised Brownlee's stewardship during a tumultuous period for the Army, which is stretched thin by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Brownlee served as the stand-in secretary for more than 550 days — longer than anyone in the history of the Army.



Roche

Mannheim rape

A Mannheim, Germany, soldier has been convicted of raping a fellow soldier after a night of drinking in Mannheim.

Spc. Michael Levitt, assigned to the 51st Transportation Company — part of the Mannheim-based 181st Transportation Battalion — "accompanied the victim, a fellow servicemember, to her barracks room to watch television," according to an Army spokesman. "When she fell asleep, he removed her clothing and raped her."

Levitt, who was convicted Oct. 15, was sentenced to 18 months in jail, reduction to E-1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and given a bad-conduct discharge.

From staff reports

Sigonella students consider career options

By JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

NAS SIGONELLA, Sicily — Nearly two dozen juniors and seniors at Stephen F. Decatur High School are using a new program to get a step ahead in preparation for their entry into the job market.

On Tuesday, they had a little fun while they were at it.

The students spent the morning touring the air station's flight line as part of their "schools to careers" or "career practicum" courses.

They spent the first part of the

morning touring the base's Air Force Intermediate Maintenance Department, where they learned about the Navy job of aircraft support equipmentmen, more commonly known as parachute riggers.

After learning about parachute packing, liquid oxygen equipment and life rafts, they moved to the P-3 Orion patrol aircraft squadron VP-16, then on to the base's helicopter detachment, HC-4.

Though the day was loaded with the whiz-bang fun of climbing into helicopters and learning about the weaponry carried by the P-3, it still gave them an eyes-and-hands-on look at careers that some may eventually enter if they enlisted in the Navy, as a few indicated they would.

The two courses, which include job or career-practical areas such as resumes and interviews, include a heavy dose of career exploration.

Kathy Campbell, the school's career coordinator and teacher of the two classes, said that 14 speakers in a variety of fields have visited the students to explain what they do. Campbell said that the school also offers a career exploratory class for eighth-graders.

Even though they are limited to careers available on the base, and are physically far removed from the commercial U.S. job market, some students said they didn't think they were missing out on much.

"I think there is a bit, but it's not a big deal, because it's like a miniature economy on base," said senior Randy Waggoner, who's enrolled in the "schools to careers" course.

Students previously toured the base hospital.



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Petty Officer 1st Class Preston Maxwell of the base Air Force Intermediate Maintenance Department explains a pilot emergency rescue radio to juniors and seniors from Sigonella's Stephen F. Decatur High School on Tuesday. The students were visiting Maxwell's department as part of the school's new career program.

"We've talked to an engineer about his field, another on computer networks and electronics."

Senior Neva Austin said her group saw a dissected heart, learning about — and seeing — what led to its former owner's death. The new courses, she said, are good additions to the curriculum.

"Before this, only the JROTC classes got to see the base [like this]," she said.

Austin said she believes the ca-

reer choices offered on base are limited, especially for the career she has chosen to pursue — that of a molecular and astral physicist.

For while other classmates are setting their sights on the military, or jobs in electronics, Austin's got her eyes on the stars. And no matter how hard she looks, there just aren't any NASA rocket scientists on Sigonella.

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudy@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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.S. convoy rammed by bomber, 10 killed

Three soldiers hurt in Beiji blast; man reports policemen kidnapped

BY KATARINA KRATOVA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide attacker drove his bomb-laden car into a U.S. convoy during fighting Wednesday in a northern town, where hospital officials said at least 10 Iraqis were killed amid a wave of violence across Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland.

The increasing attacks and the U.S. military's offensive to retake the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah have made November one of Iraq's bloodiest months.

According to an Associated Press tally, the American death toll in the war in Iraq surpassed 1,200 with new Defense Department identifications Tuesday night and Wednesday. The total of 1,208 deaths included 1,204 identified members of the U.S. military, three military civilians and one unidentified soldier reported to have died Tuesday in Balad.

In Fallujah, heavy machine-gun fire and explosions rang out in south-central parts of the city as U.S. Marines hunted remaining fighters. In the northern Jolan neighborhood, U.S. Marines caught insurgents who officers said had sneaked back into the city by swimming across the Euphrates River.

Bullets snapped overhead, and Iraqis collecting bodies in the dead rain for cover behind walls and in buildings as Marines returned fire. After 15 minutes of fighting, three insurgents were dead and one Marine was slightly injured in the hand, officers said.

The rush of warplanes streaking through the low-lying clouds shook the city and blasts sent smoke into the sky. The U.S. military said that airstrikes Wednesday were concentrated in southwestern Fallujah, destroying enemy positions.

The U.S. military says it is fighting pockets of insurgents after taking most of Fallujah.

The car bomb came during clashes in Beiji, a city 155 miles north of the capital, witnesses said. The vehicle hit a convoy and exploded, then U.S. soldiers opened fire.

Ten people were killed and nine others wounded, hospital officials said, though it was not clear how many were caused by the blast. The 1st Infantry Division said three U.S. soldiers were wounded in the suicide attack. Beiji is the site of Iraq's largest oil refinery and a major power station.

U.S. forces and insurgents also battled for three hours in the center of the insurgent-heavy city of Ramadi, west of Fallujah.

Hospital officials said seven people were killed and 13 people wounded in the clashes, which left two residential buildings in flames.

A police spokesman in Karbala said a police officer from the city had reported that 31 policemen returning from training in Jordan were kidnapped over the weekend by insurgents who attacked their hotel in western Iraq. The spokesman said the report was not confirmed.

The Interior Ministry and the office of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said they have not been able to confirm the report. A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Amman said he had not heard the report.

The police officer who made the report said he escaped a raid Sunday by armed men on the hotel in the town of Rutba, near the Jordan border, according to the police spokesman.

The officer said around 20 armed men attacked the hotel, covering the captives' heads with black bags and tying their hands before dragging them away, the spokesman said. The officer said he was beaten but was not abducted.

Meanwhile, Iraqi security force-



U.S. troops take cover Wednesday following a car bombing north of Baghdad. An increasing number of attacks following an offensive to retake Fallujah have made November one of Iraq's bloodiest months.

es, backed by U.S. Marines, freed a captive Iraqi truck driver during a raid south of Baghdad, the U.S. military said.

In Baghdad, some 3,000 protesters peacefully demanded the release of seven followers of Shiite Ayatollah Mahmoud al-Hassani, who had been detained by U.S. forces in the past week.

The northern city of Mosul, where insurgents launched an uprising last week, appeared calmer, the military said Wednesday, after a U.S. assault to restore control.

The U.S. military said it was expanding its investigation into the fatal shooting of a wounded man by a Marine in a Fallujah mosque over the weekend. The investigation will also look into whether other wounded men in the mosque were also shot and killed, a spokesman said.

Allawi is "very concerned" about the shooting, his office said. American and Iraqi authorities have been trying to stem outrage over the shootings among Iraqis.

Mannheim service set for fallen GI

A memorial service for Pfc. Cole William Larsen, who died in Iraq, will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at Benjamin Franklin Village in Mannheim, Germany.

Larsen, who was assigned to the 272nd Military Police Company — part of the Mannheim-based

96th MP Battalion — was killed Saturday in a traffic accident, according to an Army spokesman.

A native of Santa Clara, Calif., the 19-year-old military policeman was traveling in a convoy in East Baghdad when his armored vehicle was clipped by an Iraqi truck and rolled over several times. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

From staff reports

NATO approves plans for military training in Iraq

BY PAUL AMES
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — NATO allies on Wednesday approved detailed plans to send up to 300 military instructors backed by hundreds of guards and support staff to Iraq in an expansion of the alliance's military training program.

The approval sets up a meeting of officers from the 26 allies next week at NATO's military headquarters in southern Belgium to discuss troops for the mission, which would run a military academy outside Baghdad for Iraqi officers.

Alliance commanders want to have the

expanded mission up and running before the end of the year.

However, the alliance's top general added to concerns over the refusal of nations such as France and Germany to allow their troops to participate in the mission — even officers assigned to NATO headquarters.

"That is, of course, causing difficulties," German Gen. Harald Kujat told a news conference. "We don't have too many experts who can rotate."

Vijay, chairman of NATO's military committee, said he did not see difficulties in raising troops for the initial deployment of instructors and backup, but he said the re-

fusal of some nations to allow their NATO officers to participate could cause long-term problems.

"It's important that everybody contributes," he said. "There is a certain obligation."

NATO's top operational commander, U.S. Gen. James L. Jones, said last 16 of the 26 allies have agreed to participate in the operation, which aims to train about 1,000 officers a year.

In an interview carried this week in London by the British Times newspaper, he warned the decision of some allies not to send any soldiers could present problems as the alliance seeks to rotate its instructors.

Opponents of the Iraq war such as France, Germany and Belgium have insisted they will not send troops to Iraq, although they have offered to help with training Iraqi forces outside the country.

NATO officials are particularly worried that their refusal to allow officers posted to alliance staff positions to participate in Iraq could undermine the unity of NATO's integrated military command.

The alliance has nearly 70 staff in Iraq on training missions which was launched in August. NATO has been drawing up and reviewing plans to expand the operation since September.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Tuesday, at least 1,198 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 943 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said as of Tuesday. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is twice lower than the Defense Department's tally of 1,210; it's not unusual for the figures to differ from day to day.

The British military has reported 74 deaths, Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,060 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 831 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of U.S. military

operations in Iraq, 8,956 U.S. servicemen have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier died Tuesday in Balad, Iraq, from an explosive that hit a convoy.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Bradley L. Parker, 19, Marion, W.Va., killed Monday in Anbar province, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Cpl. Dale A. Burger Jr., 21, Port Deposit, Md., killed Sunday in Anbar province, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Andres H. Perez, 21, Santa Cruz, Calif., killed Sunday in Anbar province, assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.



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Soldiers have only praise for FOB Wilson

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq — You won't find a Burger King or a movie theater or an Olympic-size swimming pool at this homely little base 15 miles south of Tikrit.

You won't find a soldier who has anything bad to say about it, either.

"This is the best FOB I've been on for any period of time," said Spc. Jared Wiggins, 26, of Las Vegas, a medic for Troop C of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment. "It's smaller, everything's right there. The people here are respectful to each other, fun to be around."

FOB Wilson looks like a '70s suburban office park that has been through a war, which is exactly what it is. Saddam Hussein's regime used it as a manufacturing plant for radio, radar and other electronics gear.

The Americans bombed it during the first Gulf War, but not the second.

A tree-lined road leads up to a little circular drive, in front of a long, flat greenish building with narrow windows shaped like gun slits. Elsewhere on the base are cavernous warehouses that now house tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles and Humvees.

Green lawns have long since yielded to powdery desert sand, and the trees look dusty and weary after the brutal Iraqi summer. The Army has graveled some of the yards, and the hulks of wrecked Iraqi trucks rust quietly beside the streets. Outside the stone wall topped with barbed wire lies a huge field of twisted aluminum and debris, believed to be wreckage from the U.S. attacks in 1991.

Unlike many Army camps, no

It's not pretty, but they love it



PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

First 1st Sgt. Charles Bibby, 35, stands in front of the headquarters building of Troop C of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Wilson, Iraq.

one lives in tents. Soldiers live indoors, dormitory style, in green-tiled rooms with battered walls. They eat warmed-up military rations while watching a giant-screen TV in a chow hall decorated with a colorful mural of happy children presenting flowers to a smiling, benign Saddam.

"We've got TV, running water, electricity," said Capt. James Golby, 26, of Kewanee, Ill., as he relaxed in one of the camp's break rooms.

"I expected to be living like we were in Kuwait," said Sgt. Lamar Waring, 24, of the 1st Battalion, 113th Field Artillery, of the North Carolina National Guard, referring to where troops slept on cots

"At the bigger FOBs, you don't get the working relationship. This is more like a family."

Sgt. Kelly Little
1-113 Field Artillery

crammed into large tents.

Although FOB Wilson is one of the Army's smallest camps in Iraq, it seems roomy and empty. Only one cavalry unit and a few small Guard or Reserve detachments live here.

"A lot of guys like this post be-

cause it's small," said 1st Sgt. Charles Bibby, 35, of Porterville, Calif., Troop C's senior noncommissioned officer. "You go in to use the phone or the Internet, there's not a [waiting] line."

Sgts. Kelly Little, 33, and Seth Watson, 32, both of the 1-113 Field

Artillery, said they are more than willing to give up frills such as fast-food meals, swimming pools and sprawling PXs for a homey place such as Wilson.

"The exercise facilities are great," Little said. "At the bigger FOBs, you don't get the working relationship. This is more like a family."

"The big places — there's too much headquarters, too much brass," Watson added. "I'd rather be here."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: liewer@gmail.com



Sgt. 1st Class Clifford Jackson, 28, of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, right, makes a purchase at the little post exchange at Forward Operating Base Wilson from the store's proprietor, Staff Sgt. Richard Cady, 37, of the 121st Signal Battalion.



An old Iraqi tank blocks the entrance to FOB Wilson. Under Saddam Hussein, the base was a manufacturing plant for radio, radar and other electronics systems.

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Death of capt. brings shock of war home

Word spreads fast at DODDS alumnus' school, among friends across world

BY TERI WEAVER
Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON — When a student at Seoul American High School last year mentioned she was having a hard time caring about the faraway war in Iraq, Michelle Pell decided to make it matter.

Pell, an English teacher, began putting a sign on her door each day to tally the fatalities from the fighting. The latest count was at least 1,186, according to Pell's door.

But on Wednesday there was a second sign. Capt. Sean P. Sims, a 1990 Seoul American graduate, had died Saturday in Fallujah. Sims' death marks the first time a Seoul high school graduate has died in war, according to research done by current and former teachers.

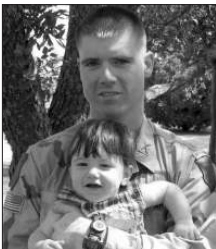
"I've been waiting for this to hit since the war started," Pell said while sitting in her empty classroom Wednesday afternoon. "It just makes me sick. We've got so many students who are there [in Iraq], who are on their way over there. It's like we're sitting on the ledge. It's hard."

Sims, 32, was a company commander assigned to the 1st Infantry Division in Vilseck, Germany, before going to Iraq in February. His wife, Heidi Sims, taught sixth grade at Vilseck Elementary School. They have a son, Colin Patrick, who is less than a year old. Both of their families live near El Paso, Texas.

The news of Sims' death spread throughout the school's expanded community Wednesday with e-mails that crossed oceans and conversations that crossed hallways.

Michael O'Brien, a retired teacher now living in Hawaii, started an e-mail chain about Sims that reached former teachers and friends around the world. Within a few days, he had 40 to 50 e-mails.

"This was really a kind person, a gentle soul," O'Brien said in a phone interview about the teen who once ran cross country with



THE SIMS FAMILY: Courtesy to Stars and Stripes
Right: Charles Woodruff, Seoul American librarian, holds a yearbook with pictures of Sean Sims, an infantry captain killed Saturday in Iraq. Sims, shown above with his son, Colin, is the first Seoul American graduate killed in Iraq.

O'Brien's son. "Everyone who went to school with him remembers him, even if some of them didn't know him that well. The president of his class called me this morning and we talked. She cried the whole time."

By early Wednesday morning, the e-mail reached Denny Hilger, the volleyball coach at Seoul American who remembered Sims and his younger brother, Thomas. An announcement was made throughout the school; by lunch, librarian Charles Woodruff had made a memorial with Sims' senior portrait, an American flag and a poinsettia.

As lunch ended, students were talking about Sims' death and

about how young they were in 1990. Most teens in this year's senior class would have been 3.

But looking at Sims' senior yearbook, the difference in their ages seemed to slip away. Sims played tennis and soccer. He was on the student council and was voted "prom prince" his senior year, when the party floated on a boat in the Han River and the theme was "Moon River." There's a picture of him and a friend wearing glitter-covered sashes and crowns. He's

Michelle Pell
Seoul American High School teacher

laughing.

"Most gasp when they hear," Woodruff said of students who were curious about the memorial. "It hits close to home. Once you're a SAHS

part of the family."

Sims' brother, Thomas, called his sibling a loving patriot and a proud father.

"Sean loved his country and the ideals it stands for," Thomas Sims wrote in an e-mail Wednesday to Stars and Stripes. "Although my family will miss him dearly, we are very proud that he gave his life in service of those ideals."

Sean Sims died while looking for insurgents hiding in Fallujah. In the hours before Sims' death, he and his company were suffering through the loss of their executive officer, a 28-year-old lieutenant who'd been shot and killed late last week.

"It's tough," Sims told a Knight Ridder reporter about the younger officer's death. The reporter was with the company the night Sims died. "I don't know what to think about it yet," Sims told the reporter about the lieutenant's death. "All of this will be forever tainted because we lost him."

The news report became a part of the e-mail chain O'Brien sent

around. The story described Sims as a quiet commander who never got frustrated when equipment broke down. He made sure his wife, Heidi, sent care packages to a 22-year-old soldier under his command who didn't seem to get any mail from home.

When Sims was found shot on a kitchen floor in Fallujah on Saturday night, the company's Iraqi translator had to be held back while he collapsed in tears.

In Seoul, the teachers and students had a shocking grief of their own.

"It's kind of tough to deal with," said Allison, a coach at the Seoul high school. "I'm sure everyone in the U.S. has their own story. This finally hits home here."

E-mail Teri Weaver at: weaver@spstripes.com

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Sean Patrick Sims Sul Ross Memorial Scholarship Fund. Send to Texas A&M Foundation, 401 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840.

Alawi concerned by shooting of wounded Iraqi

BY KATARINA KRATOVAČ
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Prime Minister Ayad Alawi is "very concerned" about the fatal shooting by a U.S. Marine of a wounded and apparently unarmed man in a Fallujah mosque, his office said Wednesday. The U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte would look into whether other wounded men in the mosque were similarly killed.

American and Iraqi authorities have been trying to stem outrage over the shootings in Iraq, particularly the Sunni Arab minority, and Arabs across the region. U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte expressed regret over the shooting but said Wednesday it should not undermine U.S. efforts to remove guerrillas from the city.

The U.S. military said Tuesday it was investigating after pool video footage by NBC showed a Marine shooting a wounded man lying in a Fallujah mosque during an operation Saturday of the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment.

Military investigators also are looking into whether more than one wounded insurgent was shot in the mosque, said Maj. Francis Piccoli, a spokesman for the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

Two other men visible on the NBC video appear to be suffering from what the network described as fresh and fatal gunshot wounds.

"The prime minister is very concerned by allegations of an illegal killing by multinational forces in Fallujah," the statement from Alawi's office said. "He has dis-

cussed the matter with the commander of the multinational force in Iraq," Gen. George Casey.

"Gen. Casey has assured the prime minister that an urgent inquiry is under way, and that he will share its findings with the Iraqi government in full and with complete transparency," the statement added. "Unlike others, the prime minister will await the outcome of the investigation before commenting any further on this incident."

Negroponte said "no one can be happy" about the incident, "but the important point is that the individual in question will be dealt with."

"The matter is being looked into and whatever measures are taken will be under our system of military justice. I know will be taken," he said.

"But I don't think that [the incident] in

any way is a reflection on the quality and caliber of absolutely fine young servicemen and women we have serving here in Iraq," he said during his first visit to Saudi City, a large Shiite Muslim district of Baghdad.

The shooting occurred when a Marine unit entered the mosque and found five men wounded in fighting at the site the day before, when another Marine unit clashed with gunmen apparently using the mosque to fire from, according to NBC's Kevin Sites, the pool correspondent who took the footage.

In the video, as the cameraman moved into the mosque, a Marine can be heard shouting obscenities in the background, yelling that one of the men was only pretending to be dead. The Marine then raised his rifle toward an Iraqi lying on the floor of the mosque and shoots the man.

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IN THE WORLD

Khatami calls nuke deal 'a great victory'

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's president on Wednesday praised a nuclear deal reached this week with Europeans but warned that Iran's commitment to suspend uranium depended on European support at a U.N. nuclear watchdog meeting next week.

Conservative lawmakers unhappy with the deal also threatened to finalize legislation forcing the government to resume uranium enrichment and related activities if Europeans failed to back Iran.

"Europeans, under the agreement, have recognized that Iran can exercise its rights [in seeking nuclear technology]. This is a great victory," President Mohammad Khatami told reporters.

But he said the first test of the deal was the Nov. 25 board meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The agreement, detailed Monday by Iran and in a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, commits Iran to suspend all uranium enrichment and related activities within a week in return for European guarantees

that Iran has the right to pursue a peaceful nuclear program.

Iran has said the suspension will be brief and voluntary to build confidence that Iran is not pursuing nuclear weapons.

"Take the first step correctly and use Iran's confidence and

good will. Show good will. If the IAEA board of governors adopts a correct decision, it will be a step in the direction that will give us more hope that our rights will be exercised," Khatami said.

"If we see that they don't keep their promise, it's natural that we

won't fulfill our promise," he said.

The agreement appeared to represent a breakthrough for the Europeans and to hurt a push by the United States, which accuses Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons, to have Tehran hauled before

the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

Khatami said a "positive" report by IAEA chief Mohamed El-Baradei indicated there was no need for any extraordinary investigation of Iran's nuclear activities.

EU threatens trade tariffs against U.S.

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union said Wednesday it has selected U.S. products to punish with tariffs next year if Washington doesn't quickly repeal an anti-dumping law ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization.

The list submitted to the WTO this week targets "vocal U.S. sectors that could help Congress focus its mind on compliance," said EU trade spokeswoman Arancha Gonzalez.

The products include textiles, sweet corn — aimed at farmers — and heavy machinery made by companies like Caterpillar Inc., which is based in Illinois, the home state of U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

She said the sanctions could go into force "early next year" unless Congress, which returned for a lame-duck session this week, repeals the 3-year-old legislation.

"There is still a chance that the U.S. changes the legislation," Gonzalez said. "We hope this takes place now."

U.S. trade spokeswoman Neena Moorjani said the Bush administration was working with Congress to bring the law into compliance. "We intend to comply with the WTO ruling," she said.

"Complex issues like these often take time."



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Inquiry seeks cause of Arafat's death

By MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia ordered an inquiry Wednesday to determine the cause of death of former leader Yasser Arafat.

The commission will take testimony from Palestinian and other Arab doctors in an effort to remove questions surrounding the Palestinian leader's death in a French military hospital last week, a statement from Qureia's office said.

The Percy Military Training Hospital, where Arafat died, has refused to publicly reveal his cause of death or hand over medical records to anyone but his widow, Suha, who has remained silent.

The secrecy has caused some Palestinian leaders to charge that Arafat was poisoned, though Palestinian Foreign Minister Nabil Shaath has ruled out that possibility.

Jordanian neurologist Ashraf al-Kurdi, who attended the ailing Arafat at his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah, has called for an autopsy.

The commission will approach French authorities again. Raufi Fattouh, interim head of the Palestinian Authority, said Wednesday a Palestinian delegation would travel to France for the investigation.

The commission, which will be headed by Health Minister Jawad Tibi, will also follow up with Palestinian, Egyptian, Jordanian and Tunisian medical teams "which did medical tests on President Arafat in Ramallah, in order to get the available information about the sickness of President Arafat, and the reasons of his death," a commission statement said.

Leader open to talks on Kashmir

By MUTABA ALI AHMAD

The Associated Press

SRINAGAR, India — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh offered Wednesday to hold unconditional talks on Kashmir "with anyone and everyone," as India began withdrawing troops in the insurgency-ravaged region as a goodwill gesture to war-weary Kashmiris and rival Pakistan.

But a gunbattle launched by militants hours before Singh's rare visit to the region underscored the fragility of the peace process.

Despite that, Singh insisted at a news conference that "I am not pessimistic. I am hopeful enough. ... Who could have imagined some 20 years ago that the Berlin Wall would dissolve, that Germany would be reunited?"

India has not announced how many troops will be withdrawn from the highly militarized border with Pakistan, but news reports have said only about 40,000 of India's half-million troops would be redeployed. The first contingent, of at least 1,000 soldiers, headed out Wednesday from the Khanabal base camp, an army officer said on condition of anonymity.

"We want a permanent end to violence," Singh said in a speech to graduating doctors in Srinagar, the region's main city. "I am prepared to hold unconditional talks with anyone and everyone."

In Pakistan, foreign ministry spokesman Masood Khan told the private Geo TV, "We welcome his statement that he would continue the meaningful dialogue with Pakistan over Kashmir and other issues."

But Singh shrugged off a suggestion by Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf last month that some areas of Kashmir be made independent, placed under joint Indian and Pakistani control, or put under United Nations administration.

Kashmir is divided between the nuclear-armed neighbors but both claim all of it, and India accuses Pakistan of arming Muslim insurgents fighting for the region's independence or merger with Islamic Pakistan. Islamabad denies that.



Singh

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MILITARY SALES



Gulf War syndrome

LONDON — A new report on Gulf War illness urges the British government to acknowledge that Gulf War syndrome is real and calls for compensation for veterans who became ill following service in the 1991 conflict.

The inquiry, led by retired senior judge Lord Lloyd of Berwick, was not commissioned by the government. The investigation was set up at the request of Lord Morris of Manchester, the parliamentary adviser to the Royal British Legion, after the Ministry of Defense refused an official inquiry.

Many thousands of Gulf War veterans have experienced undiagnosed illnesses with symptoms such as chronic fatigue, loss of muscle control, diarrhea, migraines, dizziness, memory problems and loss of balance.

Suspected causes include stress, bacterial infection, chemical or biological weapons, pollutants from burning oil fields, depleted-uranium munitions and vaccinations for anthrax and other potential biological weapons.

Senator threatened

BRUSSELS, Belgium — A Belgian senator of Moroccan origin, known for her criticism of conservative traits within immigrant Muslim communities, has gone into hiding after receiving death threats, officials said Wednesday.

Senator Boussika, 32, contacted police after receiving threatening telephone calls last weekend, said a Socialist party official who asked not to be identified. Boussika showed up for work at Parliament on Wednesday, but now lives at a secret location.

"She again received threats and now has around the clock police protection and has gone into hiding," the official said.

Human gene testing

GENEVA — The World Health Organization said Wednesday it approved the first international standard for a human genetic test to help laboratories improve the accuracy and quality of their results.

The standard — which will help identify testing errors — is for a commonly used procedure that identifies a genetic predisposition to thrombosis, or blood clots, a potentially life-threatening condition.

Standards could also eventually be introduced for other genetic disorders, such as cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy.

Oil giant raided

MOSCOW — Law enforcement agencies raided the head office of Russian oil giant OAO Yukos and the company's most important subsidiary, a Russian news agency reported Wednesday.

Citing an unnamed law enforcement source, the Interfax news agency said authorities were searching for and confiscating documents at Yukos' Moscow office and at the subsidiary, Yuganskneftegaz.

The investigation is being conducted as part of the probe into Yuganskneftegaz' tax debts for 2000, the source said, according to Interfax.

From The Associated Press

Rebels release 20 Darfur captives

BY PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Sudanese rebels have released 15 government soldiers and five policemen captured during fighting in the war-ravaged Darfur region, an African Union official said Wednesday.

Maj. William Molokwane said the rebel Sudan Liberation Army released the 20 to the African Union on Monday and Tuesday and officially handed them over Wednesday to Sudanese government officials in the North Darfur state capital of El Fasher.

Molokwane, a spokesman for the African Union cease-fire monitoring force in Sudan, said the men, some of whom had been in captivity since February, had been held in Jebel Marra, a mountainous region in West Darfur state.

Molokwane, speaking by telephone from Darfur, said the prisoners were released in line with agreements reached in Nigeria last week between Sudanese rebel and government leaders.

Sudanese government officials were not immediately available for comment.

Sudan's Arab-dominated government and pro-government Arab tribal fighters, known as the Janjaweed, are accused of launching coordinated attacks on non-Arab farmers after two non-Arab rebel groups rose up in February 2003. Sudan denies targeting civilians or allying with the Janjaweed militia.

The United Nations says the Darfur conflict has created the

world's worst humanitarian crisis, with at least 70,000 people dead since March in the region because of disease, hunger and hardships from being uprooted. Many more have been killed in fighting since the conflict started, but no firm estimate exists.

The conflict has also driven 1.8 million people from their homes.

Humanitarian aid groups working in Sudan have said the security situation in the country's three Darfur states has worsened.

In a sign of the continuing insecurity raging throughout Darfur, U.N. spokesman George Somerville told reporters in Khartoum on Wednesday that 16 people have been killed since Nov. 9 in clashes involving militias, military and rebel forces.

Somerville also said that five of 18 Arab tribesmen kidnapped late last month by the Sudan Liberation Army near the West Darfur town of Zaleinge have been released.

The U.N. official said African Union peacekeeping forces will try to return to the Jebel Marra mountain area where the remaining hostages are being held to try to win their freedom.

The initial kidnappings of the 18 men, mostly Arab students, sparked clashes in the Zaleinge area between angry Arab tribes people and African villagers living in displaced people's camps.

Paula Claycomb, spokeswoman for the U.N. children's fund, said continuing violence was also preventing a vaccination program from reaching all children in Jebel Marra.

Associated Press writer Mohamed Osman contributed to this report from Khartoum, Sudan.



Displaced Sudanese men carry sacks of food Monday from the World Food Program in the Otash refugee camp. The Darfur conflict has created the world's worst humanitarian crisis, the United Nations says.

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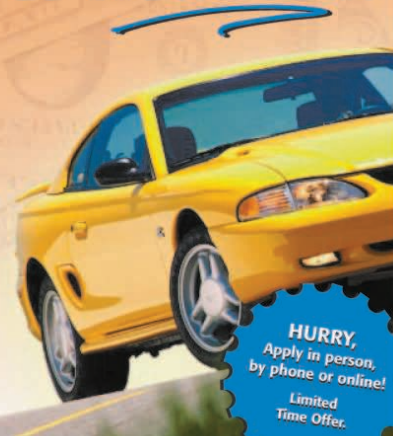
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Former Czech President and dissident Vaclav Havel places flowers at the 1989 Velvet Revolution Memorial on Wednesday in Prague, Czech Republic. Fifteen years ago, the brutally suppressed demonstration at Narodni Trida led to the fall of the communist regime in Czechoslovakia.

AP



Czechs mark uprising that toppled communist regime

The Associated Press

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Amid warnings of resurgent support for communist ideology, Czechs took to the streets Wednesday for concerts and speeches marking the 15th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution that ended decades of repression.

Former President Vaclav Havel, the playwright who led mass rallies that began on Nov. 17, 1989, laid a wreath symbolizing the start of the uprising that toppled the Marxist regime in the former Czechoslovakia — a country he once famously dubbed "Absurdistan."

Spectators reached out to touch the former leader and chanted "Long Live Havel!" at the site of a brutal crackdown on demonstrators. They lit candles and left bouquets beneath large, grainy photographs of communist-era police in riot gear.

Havel expressed concern at growing support for the Communist Party, which now enjoys nearly 15 percent support from Czechs disillusioned by a perceived loss of sovereignty when the nation joined the European Union in May.

"It's not a good thing," he warned the crowd.

The 1989 rallies that led to the collapse of the regime in just a few weeks began with communist police scattering protesters, who regrouped in demonstrations that swelled to hundreds of thousands of people within days.

The revolution's slogan, coined by Havel, was: "Love and truth will prevail over lies and hatred."

Czechs celebrated with open-air rock concerts and speeches by political leaders and former dissidents. President Vaclav Klaus reminded a special session of Parliament of how far the nation has come since shaking off decades of repressive rule.

"We live in freedom and in a stabilized democracy, and therefore each of us is the engineer of his or her own happiness to a degree unseen in the past," he said. "There would be nothing worse than to create new myths and make the past [seem] nicer."

The Czech Republic and Slovakia split peacefully into independent states in 1993. Slovakia also joined the EU in May.

Group: Treaty helps, but thousands still killed by land mines

By MIRANDA LEITSINGER

The Associated Press

TRAPEANG YENG, Cambodia — More than 8,000 people were killed or maimed last year by land mines, although an international treaty that banned the weapons five years ago has reduced the carnage, an activist group said Wednesday.

Up to 20,000 more people could have fallen victim to land mines during the period because so many cases go unreported, but even that was an improvement on annual estimates from before the 1999 treaty, officials from the Nobel Peace Prize-winning group said.

Countries increasingly are shunning land mines since the Mine Ban Treaty came into effect in 1999, but the United States, China and Russia are among those that haven't joined and still stockpile millions of the devices, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines said.

Only Myanmar and Russia have continuously used mines since 1999, the campaign said.

"The international norm established by the ... treaty is rapidly taking firm hold around the world," said Jody Williams, who shared the 1997 Nobel prize with the group she helped create.

"Clearly we are succeeding in our struggle to eradicate this weapon."

The land mine campaign is a collective of the rights groups Human Rights Watch, Handicap International, Kenya Coalition Against Landmines, Norwegian People's Aid and Mines Action Canada.

Aid groups estimate that around 26,000 people were killed or injured by land mines each year in the 1990s, although there is no official count. Sheree Bailey, of Handicap International, said unconfirmed casualties were estimated to be about 20,000 in 2003.

The report says there were 8,065 new land mine casualties reported in 2003, down from 8,333 in 2002. Countries with the most improvement were Afghanistan, Cambodia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

But Bailey said the decline was heartening, but not that much of the estimated 400,000 people worldwide who were living with land mine injuries are in poor countries that often couldn't afford to care for them properly.

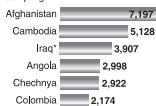
"The majority of mine survivors need assistance for their lifetime," she said. "It's not just a matter of patching someone up and sending them back out."

Fewer victims, but aid still needed

More than 8,000 people were killed or maimed last year by land mines, although unreported cases could number up to 20,000 during that time period.

Number of new landmine victims reported 1999-2004

More than 42,500 new victims have been identified in 75 countries. A sampling:



* Mostly northern region

SOURCE: International Campaign to Ban Landmines

AP

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Chirac food bill case

PARIS — French President Jacques Chirac will not have to face a lawsuit for allegedly running up lavish food bills while he was mayor of Paris, a court said Wednesday.

An appeals judge upheld a lower court's decision to throw out a civil complaint brought by the current Socialist-led City Hall. The court said the statute of limitations has run out.

The decision to dismiss the case was the latest court victory for the conservative president, who has been haunted by allegations of corruption dating to his time as Paris mayor from 1977 to 1995.

Prisoner found dead

EDINBURGH, Scotland — A Scottish man convicted of murdering his best friend, whose blood he said he drank in an effort to gain immortality, was found dead Tuesday in his prison, officials said.

Prison officials would not comment on the suspected cause of death of 33-year-old Allan Menzies. British media reported that Menzies had committed suicide.

Call this a vacation?

ZAGREB, Croatia — Croatia may reopen its most notorious communist-era prison for tourists willing to part with their money to re-enact the life of a political prisoner — including hard labor, stale food and nights in solitary confinement.

The plan has the support of some local officials and even former inmates, who have offered to work as tour guides, though the city council has yet to make a final decision.

Goli Otok — which means Naked Island — was a miniature gulag set up by Yugoslavia's communist dictator Josip Broz Tito after World War II. It housed 3,000 inmates at its peak but has been derelict since its closure in 1989.

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Kmart, Sears to merge in \$11 billion deal

BY MEGAN REICHGOTT

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The discounter Kmart Holding Corp. is acquiring one of the most venerable names in U.S. retailing, the department store operator Sears, Roebuck and Co., in a surprise \$11 billion deal that will create the nation's third largest retailer.

The combined company under Wednes-

day's deal would be known as Sears Holdings Corp., but it was clearly orchestrated by Kmart chairman and Sears shareholder Edward Lampert, who will lead a new board that will be dominated by Kmart directors.

Shares of both companies surged on news of the deal. Kmart shares climbed \$16.08, or 16 percent, to \$117.30 in late morning trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market, while Sears shares soared \$9.42, or 21

percent, to \$54.62 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The new company is expected to have \$55 billion in annual revenues and 3,500 outlets. That will mean it will trail only Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Home Depot Inc. among the biggest U.S. retailers.

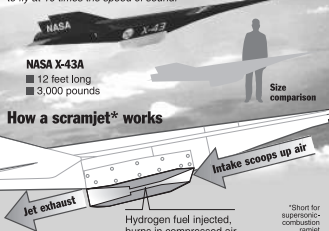
At a New York news conference for investors and the media, Lampert and Sears CEO Alan Lacy said the combined company will be able to take advantage of econo-

mies of scale and the prime location of some of Kmart's stores to better compete against "big box" stores like Wal-Mart and Target Corp. Lampert will be chairman of Sears Holdings and Lacy will be vice chairman and CEO.

The companies expect to achieve annual cost savings of more than \$300 million through the combination of their purchasing power, merchandising and a more efficient supply chain.

Jet smashes speed record

NASA's X-43A "scramjet," an experimental, scaled-down version of hypersonic planes of the future, was built to fly at 10 times the speed of sound.



Flight of the X-43A

1 Modified B-52B bomber carries booster and X-43A to 40,000 feet over Pacific Ocean

2 Booster lifts X-43A to 100,000 feet

3 X-43A detaches and accelerates to 7,000 mph, runs out of fuel and crashes into sea



Source: NASA
Graphic: Helen McCormack, Todd Lindeman © 2004 KRT

10-second flight a hypersonic success

BY JOHN ANTCAK

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An unmanned NASA jet screamed into the record books high over the Pacific Ocean by reaching speeds of almost 7,000 mph, brightening hopes that humans might one day be able to fly across a continent in minutes instead of hours.

The 12-foot-long X-43A supersonic combustion ramjet — or scramjet — flew on its own power for just 10 seconds after separating from a booster rocket, but it was enough to excite researchers.

"We've given industry and government a lot of confidence to go forward with hypersonic flight," said Joel Sitz, the X-43A project manager at Dryden Flight Research Center on Edwards Air Force Base. "I think that technology definitely has a future."

Initial data indicated the aircraft flew at about Mach 9.6 — or

nearly 10 times the speed of sound — said Randy Volland, the scramjet propulsion team leader from NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va.

The X-43A was mounted on a Pegasus rocket and carried aloft by NASA's B-52 carrier aircraft to a range off the Southern California coast. At 40,000 feet, the Pegasus was released and ignited, soaring to high altitude and a speed of Mach 9.8 before the X-43A separated and flew on its own at an altitude of 111,000 feet.

After 10 seconds of scramjet-powered flight, the X-43A became a glider and made a controlled glide to a splashdown in the ocean about 800 miles offshore. It will not be recovered.

The flight was the last in a \$230 million-plus program to test a technology most likely to be initially used to power missiles or in military aircraft, such as bombers that could reach any target on Earth within two hours of takeoff.

Ohio: Most ballots valid

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The vast majority of provisional ballots cast in Ohio were legitimate, say election officials who are poring over thousands of presidential election ballots.

The ballots that are being rejected are invalid because people simply were not registered, did not give information such as addresses or signatures, or voted in precincts where they do not live.

President Bush beat Democrat John Kerry in Ohio by 136,000 votes in unofficial tallies, and Kerry has conceded not enough outstanding votes exist to sway the election his way in the key battleground state.

Of the 11 counties that have completed checking provisional ballots, 81 percent of the ballots are valid, according to an Associated Press survey Monday.

From The Associated Press

Gobbler gets a break



AP

President Bush holds Biscuits by the neck during the Pardoning of the National Thanksgiving Turkey ceremony at the White House on Wednesday in Washington. After the ceremony, the turkey was retired to the Kidwell Farm petting zoo at Frying Pan Park in Herndon, Va.

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Rice replacement views self as facilitator

BY GLENN KESSLER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Stephen Hadley, who will be elevated to national security adviser after Condoleezza Rice wins Senate confirmation as Secretary of State, is a quintessential staff aide who views himself as a "facilitator" — someone who makes the policy trains run on time.

But Hadley's record on that score is mixed. The Sept. 11 commission report was critical of Hadley's handling of policy development in several areas. Hadley was also thrust in an uncomfortable spotlight when he accepted blame in 2003 for allowing faulty intelligence to appear in the president's State of the Union address.

Hadley, 57, has worked his way up

through a succession of government posts, with Vice President Dick Cheney as one of his main advocates. But though becoming national security adviser has long been Hadley's dream, he hasn't left behind a rich paper trail of writings or books that outline a foreign policy philosophy, except for displaying a passion for missile defense.

He appears to have won his coveted post in part through a combination of long hours, tight-lipped loyalty and a passion for calling little attention to himself.

"He has a severe case of 'prison pallor' because he's in the office all the time," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, who served on the "deputies committee" chaired by Hadley when he was deputy director of the White House Budget Office.

Stephen Biegun, who was executive secre-

tary of the NSC early in the administration, echoed that, noting: "I worked ungodly hours, but I never spent a minute more in the office than the guy I worked for."

O'Keefe, who also worked with Hadley in the Pentagon when Cheney headed it during the George H.W. Bush administration, described himself as a "huge Steve Hadley fan."

He said that Hadley is not contentious, doesn't take disputes personally and is unfailingly pleasant.

As Hadley characteristically sat silent in the front row during the ceremony announcing Rice's nomination, Bush Tuesday called Hadley a "man of wisdom and good judgment" who "has earned my trust."

Before joining the Bush administration, Hadley was a lawyer at Shea & Gardner and

a principal in the Scowcroft Group, a consulting firm.

He was assistant secretary of defense in 1989-1993, a member of the national security staff in 1974-1977 and a Defense Department analyst in 1972-1974.

He is married to a Justice Department lawyer and has two daughters.

As Rice's chief aide, Hadley has been responsible for the day-to-day running of the National Security Council, especially because she spent so much time at Bush's side. Hadley dealt with a variety of personnel and policy issues, while trying to frame the debate for the contentious issues faced by the administration. He tried to forge consensus through formal meetings and through informal settings such as the "Wednesday Group," a weekly lunch of the five key deputies in the government.

Bush names Spellings as education secretary

BY BEN FELLER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Wednesday named White House domestic policy adviser Margaret Spellings to be the nation's eighth education secretary.

"The issue of education is close to my heart and on this vital issue there's no one I trust more than Margaret Spellings," Bush told her.

If confirmed by the Senate, Spellings would replace departing secretary Rod Paige in the Cabinet-level job of overseeing the Education Department. Spellings, who was joined in the Roosevelt Room of the White House with her two daughters, became emotional as she accepted the post.

"I am a product of our public schools," she said as her voice started to crack. "I believe in America's schools, what they mean to each child, to each future president or future domestic policy adviser and to the strength of our great country."

To the president, Spellings delivers exactly what he expects from schools: results.

"We must ensure that a high school diploma is a sign of real achievement so that our young people have the tools to go to college and to fill the jobs of the 21st century," Bush said. "In all our reforms, we will continue to stand behind our nation's teachers who work so hard for our children."

As Bush's domestic policy adviser, Spellings has helped shape the news while staying out of it herself. Karl Rove, the president's political strategist, was quoted this fall as saying Spellings is "the most influential woman in Washington that you've never heard of."

Spellings worked for six years as Bush's education adviser in Texas, pushing policies on early reading and student accountability. They became the model for the federal law, No Child Left Behind, that Spellings helped put together from the White House after Bush's election in 2000.

Margaret Spellings' background

Name: Margaret Spellings

Age-Birth Date: 46, Nov. 30, 1957

Education: B.A., University of Houston, 1979

Experience: Domestic policy adviser to President Bush, senior adviser on education policy for then-Texas Gov. Bush, political director in Bush's gubernatorial campaign in 1994, associate executive director of the Texas Association of School Boards.

Family: Husband, Robert Spellings, two daughters, two stepsons

"She understands what he thinks. They're very, very close," said Sandy Kress, a lawyer who worked at the White House for Spellings.

Spellings has overseen a range of domestic policy, from justice to housing, but education is an issue of deep interest.

Spellings, 46, will take over leadership of the Education Department at a critical time. Many lawmakers, teachers and parents are frustrated by No Child Left Behind, which gives more attention to poor and minority kids but penalizes some low-income schools that fall short.

Paige, 71, also had a broken relationship with the National Education Association, the largest teachers union in the country.

He once referred to the NEA as a "terrorist organization."

"This is a great opportunity for the administration to change the tone of its discourse with the education community, particularly the 2.7 million members of the National Education Association who are in schools all over this nation," said NEA president Reg Weaver. "We look forward to finding common ground with Ms. Spellings in her new role."



President Bush leaves the White House in May 2002 with Margaret Spellings. Administration officials said that Bush has decided to name domestic policy adviser Spellings to replace Rod Paige as education secretary.

Bush, Rice relationship could put State Dept. front and center

BY BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice has been both protégé and mentor to President George W. Bush in his first four years in the White House. So he is bound to feel comfortable with the former Stanford University provost running the State Department.

They chat easily and interchangeably, without a hint of deference, about perceived threats to U.S. national security.

There is no reason to expect that comity to falter.

The outlook is for a more secure Bush, spared Secretary of State Colin Powell's steady stream of reminders about the impact that a unilateral and aggressive foreign policy might have on friends and foes around the world.

"She is very able," Zbigniew Brzezinski, former President Jimmy Carter's national security adviser, said of Rice on Tuesday.

Analysis

But in a cautionary note, Brzezinski questioned whether the complexity of America's situation in the world should be reduced to "grand formulas" that are hostile to nuances.

Rice, who mentored Bush on foreign policy and national security, has never indicated publicly any difference in view with him. She helped Bush respond to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks by declaring war on terrorism, and she had a hand in plotting the war on Iraq.

The faulty intelligence that Saddam Hussein had hidden caches of weapons of mass destruction passed through her hands to the president, but that is unlikely to slow her confirmation.

On Tuesday, there was no sign of any serious opposition to Rice's nomination in the Republican-controlled Senate.

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Abortion pill deaths

WASHINGTON — The abortion pill RU-486 is safe enough to remain on the market with strengthened warnings, the government said Tuesday despite a third death after the drug's use.

Critics said scrutiny of the drug would only increase. "I think you'll see the opposition, but not just from people who are pro-life," said Wendy Wright, senior policy director at Concerned Women for America. "This is a dangerous drug."

An abortion rights advocate hoped the expanded black box warning would not discourage women.

"It is my hope that women will not be afraid" to use mifepristone, originally known as RU-486, to induce abortion, said Vanessa Cullins, vice president for medical affairs at Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

"All of us need to understand that no procedure, no medication is risk-free."

The federation uses the abortion pill at 222 of its 845 clinics.

The Food and Drug Administration said its decision to bolster safety warnings was triggered by a third death after RU-486 use.

Those three deaths were among 676 adverse events reported through Nov. 5 by women who used the abortion pill. The problems included sickness and dizziness, as well as more serious illnesses that required hospitalization, according to the FDA.

From The Associated Press

BY RYAN PEARSON

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police were searching for rapper Young Buck in connection with a stabbing at the Vibe Awards, an assault apparently sparked when Buck's musical mentor, Dr. Dre, was punched just before being handed a lifetime achievement award.

Buck fled the Santa Monica airport hangar where the awards show was being taped Monday night, police Lt. Frank Fabrega said in a statement. A warrant was being prepared alleging assault with a deadly weapon.

The incident was sparked as Snoop Dogg and Vibe magazine founder Quincy Jones were about to give Dre a lifetime achievement award. A man later identified as Jimmy James Johnson approached Dre, who was seated at a table in front of the stage, and appeared to ask for an autograph before punching the veteran hitmaker, police said.

People began throwing chairs were thrown and punches flew. Some in the audience of about 1,000 scurried for the exits. Alicia Keys, the night's top winner with awards for artist of the year and best R&B song, was among those who fled.

Johnson was dragged away by security staff, but then suffered a serious stab wound when he was attacked by a number of people, including Buck, whose real name is David Darnell Brown, according to police. He is signed to Dr. Dre's record label as part of the G-unit clique, which was named best group by the music magazine.

"Brown is clearly depicted (on videotape) as holding a knife after the assault and is one of a number of fight participants that was peppered by officers in their attempt to

stop this fight," Police Chief James Butts told a news conference. "We're asking Mr. David Darnell Brown to surrender himself to police."



Rapper Young Buck, performing at MTV's New York studios in 2003, was being sought Tuesday by police for allegedly stabbing a Los Angeles man who had punched hip-hop legend Dr. Dre at the second annual Vibe awards.

stop this fight," Police Chief James Butts told a news conference. "We're asking Mr. David Darnell Brown to surrender himself to police."

Johnson, 26, was in stable condition at a hospital.

"It is unfortunate that an event so many people worked very hard to create has been tainted by the actions of a few individuals," Ke-

nard Gibbs, president of Vibe, said in a statement.

Many in the constantly feuding rap community speculated that longtime Dre antagonist Suge Knight, who attended the awards, arranged for Dre to get punched. Suge and Dre started the legendary Death Row record label together in the late 1980s, then had a bitter separation over money and the violence that has surrounded Knight during his 15 years in the music business.

Knight denied any involvement in the attack on Dre.

"One thing about me, if I do something, I'm [taking responsibility]," Knight said after the show. "I'm not an idiot. See, an idiot would go out there and do stuff."

Buck, a native of Nashville, Tenn., is a member of superstar 50 Cent's G-Unit posse. He released his debut solo album, "Straight Outta CaShville," in August, and it debuted at No. 3 on the Billboard charts.

For those who listen to Buck and G-Unit's hardcore rhymes, it's no surprise that Buck would spring to the defense of his godfather Dre, one of the architects of gangsta rap. And although there were metal detectors at the door, performers aren't typically searched when they enter an awards show.

It wasn't the first hip-hop awards show to be interrupted by violence. The 2000 Source Awards were marred by fights — and then got their highest TV ratings ever.

After the Vibe fracas was squelched Monday night, the taping continued. The show, broadcast Tuesday night on UPN, was seamlessly edited to remove any trace of the attack. "They can't stop me. I don't care," Dre said on television as he accepted his award, showing no signs of injury.

Source says crematory owner to plead guilty to theft, corpse abuse

BY HARRY R. WEBER

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A former crematory operator accused of dumping 334 bodies and passing off cement dust as their ashes struck a plea deal that calls for up to 12 years in prison, The Associated Press learned.

Ray Brent Marsh, who is to enter the plea Friday, had faced up to 8,000 years in a case that shocked the nation more than two years ago when investigators found rotting corpses stacked in sheds and scattered in woods outside his crematory in rural northwest Georgia.



Marsh

In a letter to victims' families dated Nov. 10 and obtained by AP, the prosecutor's office describes Marsh's intent to plead guilty but does not give details of the plea agreement.

A source close to the case said Tuesday that Marsh will plead guilty to theft and abuse of corpse charges and be sentenced to 12

years in prison with credit for seven months he spent in jail.

The sentence, which covers all 787 counts against Marsh, 31, will be followed by a probation that would effectively last the rest of his life, said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Walker County District Attorney Herbert E. Franklin, whose office sent the letter, and defense lawyer McCracken Poston declined to comment.

A judge must approve any deal. Marsh allegedly stopped performing cremations at the Tri-State Crematory in Noble in 1997, when he took over a family business that dealt with funeral homes in Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama.

After an anonymous tip in February 2002, investigators found bodies scattered in the woods, stored in buildings and crammed into burial vaults on the crematory property and behind Marsh's house.

One corpse was found inside a casket in a hearse with a wilted spray of flowers still atop the coffin.

Marsh and dozens of funeral homes that sent bodies to the crematory have already settled a civil lawsuit for \$80 million.

"The photo is actually woven into the blanket so wash after wash the image will never fade."

Family

Baby
Toddler
Mom+Dad
Grandma&Gramps



Pets

Dog
Horse
Cat
Bird



Holidays

Mother's Day
Father's Day
Christmas
Valentine's Day



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Washington governor's race still undecided

Two weeks after the election, the count and recount goes on and on

BY REBECCA COOK

The Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Ballots are still being counted to determine who will be Washington state's next governor, but if residents are getting antsy, they're not showing it.

"We're civilized enough out here. We have faith in our democracy," said Jean Wright, 44, a construction inspector in the state capital. "To have every vote counted, that's most important to me."

Still, two weeks after the election, Wright confessed she's "dying to find out."

As of Tuesday night, Republican real estate agent Dino Rossi led by just 19 votes out of 2.8 million cast. Rossi has 1,367,365 votes to Democratic Attorney General Christine Gregoire's 1,367,346.

Across the state, about 6,000 votes remained to be counted. Of the four counties with the most votes outstanding, two favor Rossi and two Gregoire.



Christine Gregoire

Democrats scored a victory on Tuesday when a judge rejected the state Republican Party's attempt to stop King County from counting 929 provisional ballots. Paul Berend, who heads the Democratic State Party, was so overcome by the good news that



Dino Rossi

he wept openly.

"We were just trying to get people their right to vote," he said. "It meant a lot to me."

Also on Tuesday, elections officials in Grays Harbor County started recounting all 28,000 ballots after discovering a problem

in the computer reporting system. And King County announced at the last minute that it had 10,000 more uncounted ballots than previously estimated.

Tension between the parties has run high, but even their leaders' bickering has conveyed a sense of superiority to other, messier election dramas.

"We live in King County, not Broward County [Florida]," Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels said. "Let's count every vote."

While protests broke out in Florida after the 2000 presidential election, no mobs have stormed the county canvassing centers in Washington — not even slightly ticked-off groups.

"Washington voters have come to expect to wait for returns," said Bobbie Egan, elections spokeswoman for King County, the state's largest. "Counting absentee ballots just takes a long time."

Glacially slow vote-counting goes with the territory in Washington politics.

In most states, mail-in ballots must be received by Election Day. Washington and Alaska, however, require only that ballots be postmarked by Election Day. With an estimated 60 percent of Washingtonians voting by mail, close races can drag on for weeks as absentee ballots trickle in to county offices.

The 2000 U.S. Senate race took several weeks of counting and recounting before Democrat Maria Cantwell was declared the winner over Republican incumbent Slade Gorton.

Wednesday is the deadline to finish counting unless, of course, there are recounts.

Under state law, a recount must be held if the final margin of victory is less than 2,000 votes. Six statewide vote recounts have been conducted since 1968; none changed the outcome.

Gregoire was heavily favored going into the race. If Rossi continues getting votes, he could pull off an upset and become Washington's first Republican governor in 20 years.



A sign marking Lake Como is seen in South Belmar, N.J. Voters chose to change the name of South Belmar, a small Jersey Shore borough in Monmouth County, to Lake Como, the name of the nearby lake.

Name change shore to please

South Belmar, N.J., seeks to shed party image of northern namesake

BY WAYNE PARRY

The Associated Press

SOUTH BELMAR, N.J. — When some people hear the name South Belmar, the first images that pop to mind are rowdy summer vacationers or drunken college kids screaming at the top of their lungs at 4 a.m.

Even though most of those excesses are more common in neighboring Belmar, residents of this tiny borough to the south get tarred with the same brush. So they decided to abandon their town's name.

On Election Day, residents voted to rename the community Lake Como, returning the area to its early 1900s roots while instantly boosting property

values. One real estate agent estimated the new name could be worth an extra 15 percent to 20 percent on the price of most homes here.

"It's more attractive, more meaningful to have your own name rather than being known as south of somewhere," said Paul Heaney, owner of Paul's Tavern in South Belmar.

Not everyone is wild about the switch, though. Some say they'll miss the identity they grew up with; others say Lake Como sounds too pretentious for a borough with a strong blue collar streak.

"It's been South Belmar for years; why change it now?" asked Cindy Martinez. "If you tell people where you live and you say, 'Lake Como,' they say, 'Where the hell is that, Pennsylvania?'"

Kerry kept day job, returns to Senate

BY MARK LEIBOVICH

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — John Kerry returned to his default job in the Senate on Tuesday. The man who had hoped to be president is upbeat and optimistic and thrilled to be back — which we know because this is what he tells reporters who ask.

He turns up for a morning strategy meeting with his Democratic colleagues. He whispers something to Sen. Pat Leahy in the doorway of the Old Senate Chamber room. He hugs Sens. Joe Lieberman and Jon Corzine as the oak doors close behind him. This is how Kerry spends most of his back-to-work day: cloistered, avoiding any semblance of fuss.

It's been two weeks since Kerry lost to George W. Bush. "The votes have not all been counted in New Mexico and Ohio," says Kerry's campaign and Senate spokesman David Wade, who is waiting for Kerry outside the strategy meeting.

"And if you believe some of what you read on the Internet..." Wade is referring to the litany of conspiracy theories about voting irregularities. He says this while rolling his eyes. Message: Kerry is back at work.

After the election, Kerry took consolation calls from Tony Blair and Ariel Sharon, among others. His Secret Service detail is gone (replaced, for the time being, by two Capitol Police officers). So is the massive staff and crowds that come with being a vehicle for so

much hope and loathing.

Kerry is, at best, the third-ranking fuff of the day — and that's just in the Senate. Harry Reid, who was elected Senate minority leader Tuesday, is at the center of a cluster of 20 reporters outside the meeting. Arlen Specter was ambushed by 50 after a series of meetings in which he courted the Republican leadership in an effort to become chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Kerry says nothing about his state of mind, except that he is "great," leaving his Democratic colleagues to testify to his well-being.

"He seems like he's in good spirits," says Barack Obama, the incoming senator from Illinois. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chuck Schumer, among others, say Kerry is doing fine and did himself proud.

Kerry emerges from his office just before 3 p.m. He walks quickly down a corridor, trailed by four reporters and two photographers, and reiterates that he's thrilled to be back at work.

He parks himself in a senators-only elevator and is asked, again, if it's nice to be back at work.

"It's a privilege to represent the people of Massachusetts," he says.



Kerry

Studios file first wave anti-piracy suits

BY GARY GENTILE
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Following the lead of record companies who curtailed rampant Internet piracy by targeting even small-time file swappers, Hollywood studios have launched a first wave of lawsuits against people who allegedly downloaded recent films such as "Spider-Man 2" and "Troy."

The seven major studios filed the lawsuits for federal copyright infringement on Tuesday in Denver, New York City, San Francisco and other cities, but the Motion Picture Association of America, which represents the studios, declined to say how many were filed and where.

"It's not important," said John Malcom, senior vice president and director of worldwide anti-piracy operations for the MPAA. "It doesn't matter if it's 10 lawsuits or 500 lawsuits. The idea here is that there is no safe harbor."

"It doesn't matter if it's 10 lawsuits or 500 lawsuits. The idea here is that there is no safe harbor."

John Malcom
director of anti-piracy operations, Motion Picture Association of America

Three lawsuits, obtained by The Associated Press, were filed in federal courts in Denver and St. Louis. Two lawsuits were filed in Denver against 22 defendants, while the one in St. Louis targets 18 individuals.

The St. Louis lawsuit is brought against "John Doe" defendants, including four people who are allegedly in possession of one pirated film each. Some of the Internet addresses for the defendants can be traced to high-speed Internet connections made available by Charter Communications, a cable television company based in St. Louis.

The defendants are accused of offering the movies over peer-to-peer file-sharing programs.

Like similar lawsuits filed by the record

industry against downloaders of music files, the studios say they will be able to identify the individual defendants later.

Each of the lawsuits lists only a handful of films allegedly offered for downloading online, including "Troy," from Warner Bros., "Spider-Man 2," from Columbia Pictures and "Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen," from The Walt Disney Co.

The lawsuits seek injunctions against the defendants. Copyright law also provides for penalties of up to \$30,000 for each motion picture traded over the Internet, and up to \$150,000 if such infringement is shown to be willful.

Malcom said more lawsuits would be filed in additional cities if the current legal action does not stem illegal downloading.

The MPAA is running the risk of being seen as too heavy-handed, especially by suing people who have downloaded a single movie, said Wendy Seltzer, a staff attorney at the Electronic Frontier Foundation.

As part of its larger effort to combat piracy, the MPAA also said it would step up its educational campaign and offer a free computer program that sniffs out movie and music files on a user's computer as well as any installed file-sharing programs.

The MPAA said the program is expected to be available for download within a week. It has licensed rights to the program, which was first developed in Denmark.

Information detected by the file-detection program would not be shared with it or any other body, the MPAA said, but could be used to remove any "infringing movies or music files" and remove file-sharing programs.

The trade group said the program would be available for the Windows computer operating system on a special Web site established to educate consumers about copyright.

Trying to lose weight? Sleep more and get a dog, experts say

BY MARILYN MARCHIONE
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Experts have this unconventional advice for dieters: Don't scrimp on sleep and think about getting a dog.

A very large study has found a surprisingly strong link between the amount of sleep people get and their risk of becoming obese.

Researchers also found that dog owners who dieted alongside their pets did slightly better than their

dog-less counterparts.

Both studies were reported this week at a meeting of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity.

The sleep study found that people who got less than four hours of sleep a night were 73 percent more likely to be obese than those who got the recommended seven to nine hours of rest. Those who averaged five hours of sleep had 50 percent greater risk, and those who got six hours had 23 percent more.

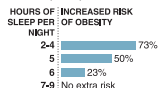
"Maybe there's a window of opportunity for helping people sleep more, and maybe that would help their weight," said Dr. Steven Heymsfield of Columbia University and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York, who did the study with Columbia epidemiologist James Gangwisch.

They used information on about 18,000 adults participating in the federal government's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, or NHANES, throughout the 1990s.

It may seem odd that sleeping more would prevent obesity because people burn fewer calories when they're resting, but they also eat when they're awake. The effect of chronic sleep deprivation on the body's food-seeking circuitry is

Less sleep raises risk of obesity

People who got less than the recommended seven to nine hours of sleep a night had higher chances of developing obesity, according to a Columbia University study.



Source: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey

what specialists think may be making the difference in obesity risks. "There's growing scientific evidence that there's a link between sleep and the various neural pathways that regulate food intake," Heymsfield said.

Sleep deprivation lowers leptin, a blood protein that suppresses appetite, and raises ghrelin, which does the opposite.

It also hurts "executive function" — the ability to make clear decisions, said Dr. Philip Eichling,

a sleep and weight-loss specialist at the University of Arizona who also is medical director at Canyon Ranch, a spa in Tucson that caters to business executives.

"One of my treatments is to tell them they should move from six hours to seven hours of sleep. When they're less sleepy, they're less hungry," he said.

Meanwhile, Chicago doctors are hoping people consider a "buddy system" for losing weight that includes man's best friend.

According to the first study to put people and their pets on a simultaneous diet and exercise program, experts found that dogs lost weight and kept it off. Dogs did better than owners, but owners said they had fun, something people rarely say about exercise.

All were followed for one year. The dog owners did slightly better than the dieters who walked and dieted alone. Overall, people lost an average of 11 pounds, or 5 percent of their body weight, in the first four months and kept it off for the next eight.

Dogs lost an average of 12 pounds 15 percent of their initial weight. Of course, that's not to do when someone controls your food dish. But the dogs didn't seem to mind.

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Study: Infections cause big problems in preemies

BY LINDSEY TANNER
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Infections shortly after birth are a surprisingly significant cause of cerebral palsy and other brain-development disorders in the tiniest premature babies, a study found.

It is well known that babies born extremely prematurely run a higher risk of a host of developmental problems, with the chief causes thought to include infections contracted in the womb and bleeding in the brain.

New research shows the strong degree to which infections contracted after birth — including infections not directly involv-

ing the brain — are linked to neurological problems later, said lead author Dr. Barbara Stoll of Emory University.

About 47 percent of children in the study who had had an infection had at least one developmental problem by age 2, compared with 29 percent of children who had not had an infection.

"This study shows that such successfully treating an extremely low birth weight infant's infection does not automatically ensure that the infant will do well," said Dr. Duane Alexander, director of the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development, which funded the study. He said premature infants who have

had infections should be watched carefully for developmental problems.

Very premature infants are especially vulnerable to infections because their immune systems have not matured and because ventilators and other medical machinery create a pathway for germs to enter the body. Published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association, involved 6,093 babies born weighing less than 2,200 pounds.

Sixty-five percent of them had had at least one infection while hospitalized, and 41 percent had at least one mental or physical impairment at follow-up visits between the ages of 1 and 2.

YOUR MONEY

Homeowners to feel pinch of heating costs

BY BRAD FOSS
The Associated Press

Bob Sadowksi wants to stay warm without going broke this winter and so, with apologies to home decorating mavens, he's insulating the windows of his home in Easthampton, Mass., with plastic sheeting.

Similarly motivated, R.J. Moore of Kansas City, Mo., will bundle up indoors rather than cranking up the thermostat.

Leroy DeHerrera of Denver expects to deal with home heating costs a little differently this winter. "I guess I'll go through the roof when the bill comes."

Although oil prices have fallen nearly \$8 a barrel from their October peak, homeowners are bracing for sharply higher winter fuel bills. The Energy Department this week estimated that bills for heating oil customers will be 37 percent higher than last year, while homeowners relying on natural gas can expect to pay 15 percent more.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting a normal winter in the Midwest and Northeast, cooler-than-normal temperatures in the South and Middle Atlantic states and warmer-than-normal conditions throughout the West.

Unless temperatures are warmer than expected over the next five months, "there isn't a lot of reason for us to think that prices will fall a lot," said Dave Costello, an economist at the Energy Infor-

mation Administration, the statistical wing of the Energy Department.

And so people like Sadowksi are taking last-minute steps to make their homes more energy efficient.

"I know it doesn't look good," Sadowksi said about the plastic around his windows that flap in the wind. "You have to ask yourself if you'd rather be paying an extra \$100 a month for (heating) oil."

The 33-year-old cook also installed a digital thermostat for more accurate temperature control — and in what now looks to be a savvy financial decision: he locked-in his heating oil costs for the winter at \$12.6 a gallon. As of this week, Massachusetts residents were paying an average of \$1.96 a gallon, according to Energy Department data. The nationwide average for heating oil is \$2.03 per gallon, compared with about \$1.39 a gallon a year ago.

The surge in heating oil prices this fall was magnified by tight supplies, analysts say. Government data show that the nation's inventory of distillate fuel, which includes heating oil, shrank on a weekly basis for two months.

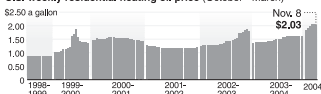
In mid-September Hurricane Ivan forced refineries along the Gulf Coast to shut down and evacuate employees. Rather than restart operations once the storm passed, many started pre-winter maintenance earlier than usual.

Inventories of distillate fuel are

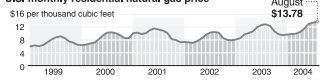
Fuel bills heating up this winter

The latest surge in heating oil prices this fall has homeowners bracing for higher fuel bills this winter.

U.S. weekly residential heating oil price (October - March)



U.S. monthly residential natural gas price



SOURCE: Energy Information Administration

now roughly 13 percent below year ago levels, but analysts expect supplies to grow soon and they may anticipate any shortages. That said, they do worry that supplies could be stretched thin if temperatures are colder than expected.

The other concern is the high price of crude oil, from which heating oil is refined. While crude futures prices are down from late October highs above \$55 a barrel, they are still about 50 percent above levels a year ago due to surprisingly strong demand, a thin global supply cushion and market fears about the war in Iraq, labor strife in Nigeria and other tensions in oil producing nations.

Crude for December traded Friday at about \$47.30 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The cost of crude oil accounts for about half the retail price of a gallon of heating oil. The remainder is due to refining and marketing costs, taxes and profits.

The strengthening economy has helped push natural gas futures up 50 percent from a year ago to roughly \$7.20 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Still, many brokers say speculation played an outsized role in the rapid rise of natural gas prices this fall, since there is plenty of fuel in storage ahead of winter.

The latest Energy Department data showed the nation's natural

gas supply to be 8.7 percent higher than the five-year average.

"The fundamentals of the natural gas market were not bullish at all," said James Cordier, head trader at Liberty Trading Group Inc. of Tampa, Fla.

The prevailing wisdom these days is that oil will stay below \$50 a barrel in the near-term, barring any unusually cold weather.

Sentiment shifted as the nation's supply of crude oil grew rapidly in recent weeks, signaling to many traders that refiners are preparing to ramp up production.

"With crude oil prices being quite expensive, there's no reason to load up on crude unless they plan to refine it," said Peter Biedel, president of Cameron Haver, Inc., a New Canaan, Conn.-based provider of industry analysis.

But Biedel said the average heating oil customer should expect to pay \$300-\$800 more this winter due to the higher costs distributors are paying at the wholesale level.

Yet if homeowners have little control over energy prices, to say nothing of the weather, they do have the power to conserve fuel. The Model Energy Plan of Kansas City aims to do just that.

Forty-nine-year-old R.J. Moore is winterizing his home for the first time by closing off some rooms, putting plastic over windows and caulking any seams where heat may try to escape. Asked if his family was sweating socks around the house, he replied: "We're going to this year."

TUESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES						
52-week						
High	Low	Low	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD 52-week
10,351.63	9,585.50	Dow Jones Industrial	10,461.05	-62.59	-59	+32
3,628.20	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,572.19	39.12	-1.09	+18.79
230.60	243.26	Dow Jones Utilities	239.15	+0.66	+0.22	+23.22
7,014.32	5,922.45	NASDAQ Composite	6,959.30	-43.76	-0.62	+8.06
1,556.88	1,064.93	NYSE Composite	1,349.20	-23.68	-1.51	+14.57
1,754.82	1,250.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,707.62	-54.47	-3.14	+17.90
1,384.68	1,031.20	S&P 500	1,175.43	-8.38	-0.71	+5.71
548.29	545.26	S&P MidCap	529.92	-3.83	-0.69	+3.36
823.96	535.99	Russell 2000	617.89	-53.7	-0.96	+10.35
11,616.02	10,859.28	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,535.35	-78.48	-0.68	+6.81

NYSE				
Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Volume	Vol	Vol	Vol	Vol
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000

Libby/MMA	119620	10.35	+10.1	15 PFC	32892	29.67	-25	10 Decline	265858	40.40	-30
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KEY DEFENSE STOCKS						KEY MUTUAL FUNDS					
	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD % Chg	Name	NAV	Chg	YTD % Chg		
Airbus Technologies	58	63.82	+1.06	+1.81		Fidelity Invest: Grdc	37.73	+7.73	+20.47		
Amtek Holdings	49	18.61	+0.18	+0.83		Fidelity Invest: Grdc	31.46	+4.46	+14.16		
Boeing	52	19.86	+0.16	+0.81		Fidelity Invest: Ultra	14.81	+0.81	+5.43		
Boeing	52	19.86	+0.16	+0.81		Fidelity Invest: Ultra	14.81	+0.81	+5.43		
Computer Sciences	58	104.81	+0.11	+22.7		Putnam Funds A: Grmk p	41.80	+1.80	+4.30		
Engineered Sys	58	104.81	+0.11	+22.7		Fidelity Invest: Grdc	31.46	+4.46	+14.16		
General Dynamics	54	102.79	+0.11	+1.81		Am Investments A: Grmk	32.66	+0.66	+2.03		
General Electric	48	34.10	+0.10	+1.65		Frank/Temple Fund A: MqCgrd	32.66	+0.66	+2.03		
Harris Corp	58	21.61	+0.16	+1.81		Am Investments A: Grmk	32.66	+0.66	+2.03		
Harris Corp	58	21.61	+0.16	+1.81		Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.16	+0.16	+1.43		

Stripes Travel

Frostbite and hostile fire

60 years later, Europe recalls the brutal Battle of the Bulge

BY LEAH LARKIN

Special to Stars and Stripes

When you initially attacked for seven days and nights without halting for rest, you met and defeated twice your own number. Your advance required the enemy to turn fresh divisions against you, and you in turn hacked them to pieces as you ruthlessly cut your way deep into the flank of the "bulge." Your feats of daring and endurance in the sub-freezing weather and snow-clad mountains and gorges of Luxembourg are legion; your contribution to the relief of Bastogne was immeasurable. It was particularly fitting that the elimination of the "bulge" should find the Yankee Division seizing and holding firmly on the same line held by our own forces prior to the breakthrough. I am proud of this feat by you as well as those you performed earlier. We shall advance on Berlin together.

— FEB. 1, 1945, HEADQUARTERS 26TH INFANTRY DIVISION, W. S. PAUL, MAJOR GENERAL, U.S. ARMY COMMANDING

Mary Ellen Sullivan carried a yellowed copy of this commendation awarded to her father, 1st Sgt. Edward J. Sullivan, as well as a commendation letter signed by Gen. George S. Patton Jr., when she traveled to visit battle sites, military museums and cemeteries in Belgium and Luxembourg this summer.

Edward Sullivan, who died in 1977, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, also called the Battle of the Ardennes, one of the largest land battles of World War II and the worst battle in terms of losses to the American forces in that war.

"He never talked about war," Sullivan recalled. Her father was one of three brothers who fought in the war, and all survived.

"My father always said he was in Patton's Army and he was very proud to be a veteran and to have served his country, yet he never went into specifics about the war," she said.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the great battle that was fought between Dec. 16, 1944, and Jan. 25, 1945. Mary Ellen Sullivan, who works in marketing for American Airlines, was on a press trip sponsored by the Belgian National Tourist Office this spring. The group attended Memorial Day ceremonies in Bastogne, a Belgian town that served a pivotal role in the battle.

"I didn't realize how emotional this would be. I just feel I'm here for him," she said. "I was thinking to myself that it's so wonderful that the people in Bastogne never forgot. They still know how much the Americans did for them."

"I saw a movie yesterday [on the battle] and realized how cold it was. My father suffered from frostbite to his feet all his life ... When we got to the cemetery and saw all those crosses, it was overwhelming."

The Battle of the Bulge actually was a series of battles scattered over several hundred miles and involving more than 1 million combatants, including 500,000 U.S. troops, 500,000 Germans



Courtesy of U.S. Army archives

U.S. soldiers hastily dig foxholes in the snow-hardened ground near Bèrisménil, Belgium, as German artillery fire opens up in December 1944. The soldier in the foreground has been shot. In the Battle of the Bulge, actually a series of battles scattered over several hundred miles, the Germans fell short of reaching the Meuse River on the fringe of the Ardennes.

Anniversary events

Several events are scheduled in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Luxembourg and the Battle of the Bulge. Here is a sampling:

- **Nov. 26-28, Diekirch, Luxembourg:** The community of Diekirch will commemorate the 1944 celebration of Thanksgiving as experienced by hundreds of GIs with their Luxembourg friends.

- **December, Bastogne, Belgium:** "I Was 20 Years Old in '45 in Bastogne," an exhibit dedicated to the Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne Seminar.

- **Dec. 16, Belgium and Luxembourg:** A night vigil commemorates the beginning of the offensive in the Ardennes with remembrance ceremonies at various monuments and locations in Belgium and Luxembourg. Location will be along the entire 16th December front line and at Bastogne from 5:30 a.m.

- **Dec. 18, Bastogne:** Commemoration of the siege of the city with a march along the Bastogne defensive perimeter, a Nuts Fair and an historic re-enactment.

- **Dec. 19, Bastogne:** Parade of military vehicles in the afternoon.

- **Jan. 18 and 22:** The key event will be the re-creation of the construction of a U.S. combat floating bridge and the crossing of the Sauer River, weather permitting.

- **Jan. 22, Bastogne:** Celebration of the second liberation of the city.

For details on all the above, see the Web site: www.amba.lu and/or contact the Bastogne Tourist Office at (+32) (0) 6124-9961, or www.bastogne.be

— LEAH LARKIN



Courtesy of U.S. Army archives

Two U.S. soldiers dug into the snow and dirt east of Bastogne, Belgium, man .50-caliber machine guns as they keep watch for German troops.

BATTLE, FROM PAGE 23

and about 55,000 British. Americans suffered 76,890 casualties, including 19,000 killed and 23,554 captured. Germans suffered about 100,000 casualties — killed, wounded or captured.

On that wintry mid-December day in 1944, the calm that Belgium and Luxembourg had enjoyed since they had been liberated the previous September was shattered. Three powerful German armies plunged into the semi-mountainous, heavily forested region of eastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg. A heavy artillery barrage pounded American forward positions, followed by the infantry onslaught and the breakthrough by the armored columns.

The Germans' objective was to reverse the course of events by striking through the Ardennes, crossing the river Meuse and retaking the port of Antwerp, which had been reopened to shipping. They hoped this would isolate the British army from U.S. forces and result in a separate peace on the western front.

They caught the Allies by surprise as American commanders thought the Ardennes the least likely spot for a German offensive. The U.S. kept the line thin, concentrating manpower on the northern front and south of the Ardennes. The poor weather — snow, bitter cold and impenetrable fog — grounded Allied aircraft and greatly aided the German advance.

Those first few days, many U.S. troops were overrun or surrendered. Yet the Americans put up strong resistance in many areas, and within three days powerful reinforcements arrived.



Courtesy of U.S. Army archives

U.S. soldiers inspect a German tank that was abandoned after it ran out of fuel in eastern Belgium and its crew surrendered. The tank had been on its way to reinforce Nazi troops during the Battle of the Bulge.

In the snow and with temperatures below freezing, the Germans failed to reach the Meuse. Their tactical objective was no longer Antwerp, but Bastogne.

Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, Europe, dispatched Combat Command B of the 10th Armored Division (from Patton's Third Army), to the town. They arrived

on Dec. 18 and immediately split into three combat teams, which established blockades on the most dangerous roads leading to Bastogne. Two were overrun, yet their actions were significant in the successful defense of Bastogne.

The Germans attacked with three divisions, but the Americans held them back. Yet by Dec. 21, Adolf Hitler's German troops

had encircled the town. They sent envoys to the American camp, presenting the commanding officer, Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, a demand to surrender. His reply — "Nuts" — has become legend.

Over the next five days the Germans launched a series of 17 vicious assaults on the town, supported by massive bombing. Facing overwhelming odds,



LEAH LARKIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

Visitors to Bastogne, Belgium, get a close look at a Sherman M4 tank from World War II.

McAuliffe stood firm. The bombing continued on Christmas night, but by the next day relief forces from the 4th Armored Division of Patton's Third Army arrived. On Jan. 3, Allied forces launched a counter-attack and within days Hitler's soldiers began to withdraw, although fighting continued until Jan. 15.

A week later, the Allied forces had linked north to south and began the push back. By Jan. 28, Allied troops had forced Hitler's troops back to original positions behind the Siegfried Line, and the Battle of the Bulge came to an end.

All the Germans had accomplished was to create a "bulge" in the American line. In the process they expended irreplaceable men, tanks and materiel. After weeks of grim fighting and heavy losses on both sides, the bulge ceased to exist.

Leah Larkin, a member of the Society of American Travel Writers, is a journalist who lives in France.

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They are gone, b

Cemeteries and museums honor those lost in the Battle of the Bulge

By LEAH LARKIN

Special to Stars and Stripes

There are several military museums and cemeteries in Belgium and Luxembourg, some specifically dedicated to the Battle of the Bulge. Following are some worth a visit. Be advised that while many places list that they are open daily, most close on Christmas and New Year's Day.

• **HENRI-CHAPELLE AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL, Belgium:** Two miles northwest of the village of Henri-Chapelle, which is on the main highway from Liège, Belgium, to Aachen, Germany.

Soldiers, 7,989 of them, who died in the Battle of the Bulge or during the advance into and across Germany in late 1944 and early 1945, are buried in this cemetery. There are 33 instances in which two brothers rest side by side and one instance of three brothers. There are also headstones marking the graves of 94 unknown soldiers.

After the war, families had the option of having a soldier's remains returned to his home or buried at Henri-Chapelle. David Atkinson, superintendent of the cemetery, said 40 percent chose burial in this cemetery.

In May, groups of World War

II veterans in Europe to attend ceremonies for the 60th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France, visited the cemetery. Local schoolchildren waving Belgian and U.S. flags greeted them, as did many citizens from nearby villages.

"For the average Belgian, if he wants to say 'thank you' to Americans, he will not lay a rose at the American embassy," Atkinson said. "He will come here and lay a rose at a grave."

Francis Williamson, 83, who parachuted into France on D-Day, made his way there.

"Visiting the cemetery is something you can't explain. It just comes on you. First thing you know you're crying," he said.

The cemetery is open 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily from April 16 to Sept. 30, and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily the rest of the year.

• **MUSEUM OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE: Rue Chateau 5, La Roche-en-Ardenne, Belgium.**

Museum dioramas contain 100 dummies of American, British and German soldiers with their equipment and weapons. Personal objects found on the battlefield, light and heavy weapons, documents and photographs and 20 military vehicles are also on display.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Admission is 5 euros for adults and 3 euros for children.

• **BASTOGNE HISTORICAL CENTER: Colline du Mardasson, Bastogne, Belgium**

Here visitors can see uniforms and light weapons of both German and U.S. troops who fought in the battle for Bastogne. There are also dioramas and a theater where you can view film reports shot during the fighting by cameramen of the opposing armies.

Open 10 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. October through April; 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. May and June; 9:30 a.m. until 6 p.m. July and August; and 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. in September. Admission of 8.50 euros for adults and 6 euros for children includes a tour with an English-speaking guide.

Find more information at www.bastognehistoricalcenter.be.

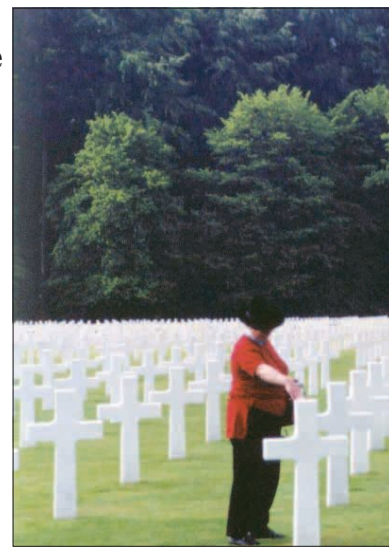
• **MARDASSON MEMORIAL: Bastogne, Belgium**

This huge monument built in the shape of a star represents the homage of the Belgian people to the 76,890 Americans who were killed, wounded or missing in action during the liberation of towns and villages in the Battle of the Bulge. The story of the battle is inscribed on the museum's interior walls. Exterior columns list the U.S. units that fought in the battle. A promenade on top of the structure is equipped with viewpoint indicators so you can see the site of the battle.

Open continuously.

• **DIEKIRCH HISTORICAL MUSEUM: 10 Banerlat, Diekirch, Luxembourg.**

The scenes depicted in the dioramas in this excellent museum are based on accounts from



Above: A visitor reads a gravestone at the American Military Cemetery and Memorial. Below: Memorial Day ceremonies at the Mardasson Memorial in Bastogne, Belgium.

those who were present during the battle. The largest and most dramatic shows troops of Gen. George S. Patton Jr.'s Third Army about to cross the icebound Sauer River on Jan. 18, 1945, to liberate Diekirch. The museum is also chock-full of military vehicles, both German and American, implements, weapons and miscellaneous war paraphernalia. In addition there are hundreds of authentic photographs, maps and documents.

David Roderick, 80, who was with the 4th Infantry Division on D-Day in Normandy, toured the museum with his son, Scott.

"It's strange to see all this German stuff," remarked the elder Roderick. He was intrigued with the diorama depicting soldiers at Thanksgiving 1944, cooking turkey. In 11 months of conflict, Roderick said he remembers having hot food only three times. He weighed 127 pounds when he returned from combat.

The museum is open 2-6 p.m. daily Nov. 2 to March 31, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 1 to Nov. 1. Web site: www.nat-military-museum.lu.

• **AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL: Luxembourg-Hamm, three miles**

east of Luxembourg City.

Patton is buried here, as are 5,075 others, many of whom died in the Battle of the Bulge and the advance to the Rhine. Among the dead are a female Army nurse and 22 instances of two brothers buried side-by-side. White marble shafts surrounded by a Star of David mark the graves of 118 Jews; white marble crosses mark the others.

Not far from the entrance is a white stone chapel. Flanking the chapel at a lower level are two large stone pylons with maps made of various inlaid granites and inscriptions recounting the achievements of the American armed forces in the region. Also on the pylons are the names of 371 of the missing who gave their lives in service to their country, but whose remains were never recovered or identified.

Open 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily.

• **ROYAL ARMY MUSEUM, 3 Parc du Cinquantenaire, Brussels, Belgium:** "We have everything from medieval helmets to an F-16," said Commandant Pat Van der Weide, an officer of the museum. There are cannons and guns from the Napoleonic era, and ancient bicycles belonging to Belgium's pre-World War I Cara-



David Roderick, 80, a D-Day veteran, visits the Diekirch Historical Museum in Luxembourg. He was intrigued with the diorama depicting Battle of the Bulge soldiers cooking turkey. In his days of conflict, he had hot food only three times.

But not forgotten



PHOTOS BY LEAH LARKIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

memorial in Luxembourg-Hamm. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. is among those buried there. Belgium, a city that played a pivotal role in the Battle of the Bulge.



Above: A diorama in the Diekirch Historical Museum in Luxembourg depicts soldiers at Thanksgiving in 1944.

Below: A lifelike statue of Gen. George S. Patton Jr. in Ettelbruck, Luxembourg. Patton was called "Old Blood and Guts" — his stern, demanding and effective leadership is legendary.



ers Cyclists. Museum exhibit deal with the Russian civil r, the collapse of the Ottoman pire and conflicts in Latvia Estonia. A new department is over international conflicts in 1918 to the present. However, it currently takes in only the rs to 1940. Most of the glass

cases contain weapons and uniforms from the museum's vast collection of 125,000 items. There are newspapers and posters charting the rise of Fascism and Stalinism. There are reconstructed scenes, including a replica of one of the rings of concrete bunkers built to defend Liege, Bel-

gium, and another of a Belgian street scene after mobilization in 1938. Separate halls are dedicated to the Navy, airplanes and tanks. Open Tuesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. Admission free. More info at www.klm-mra.be.

Volksmarch

Next Thursday is the annual Ramstein Roadrunners Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot.

Since many of you won't be able to join the Thursday's Stars and Stripes to look at the start times before this annual holiday walk begins, I've included them in this week's column. Never fear, you'll find them in next week's column, too!

As usual, the event begins in Ramstein (village), Germany, at the intersection of Jahnstrasse and Landstuhler Strasse. The easiest way to reach the TV 03 Turnhalle is to hop on the road connecting the towns of Landstuhl and Ramstein, head in the direction of Ramstein village and you'll see the Turnhalle on your left, less than a half-kilometer from the little traffic circle near the Shell gas station.

The 5- and 10-kilometer trails start between 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; the finish time is 3 p.m. Please finish by that time so club

Jennifer West



members can quickly clean up the hall and then enjoy their Thanksgiving meals later that afternoon at home.

This year's souvenir is a 2 p.m., a previous year's award (maybe the porcelain beer mug featuring the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's 50th anniversary logo).

Take the opportunity next Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, to log a few extra kilometers and spend some quality time on the trail.

Notes about this week's events:

• The Institut d'Enseignement Spécial is the Grivevine, Belgium, start location.

• A foot-tall stuffed bear wearing a stocking cap and sweater and holding a pair of skis is the prize at Margrethausen, Germany. Start the Saturday (only) 5K and 10K daytime and torch walks between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; finish by 8 p.m.

• Each walker at Holz/Saar, Germany, will receive a gift to commemorate the club's 30th volkswatching event.

• The Volkswatching event in Markt Schwaben, Germany, starts in the Hallenbad from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. How far must you swim to get credit? Normally a club will 300, 500 or 1000 meters, but this brochure says that participants swim "300 to 1000 meters." So, pick your distance, no less than 300, no more than 1000! The finish time is 3 p.m.

• A B-medal, 21-centimeter tall "flower elf" figurine, is your souvenir at Gundelfingen/Donau, Germany. You have a choice between four differently colored figurines.

• Torches will be for sale at the control points along Saturday's evening torch walk courses. Carry a flashlight if you don't feel like playing with fire.

E-mail your comments and Volkswatching information to Jennifer West at volkswatching@mail.strips.com and write her at: Volkswatching Column, Stars and Stripes, Bldg. 2899, Pulaski Barracks, APO AE 09227-3717 (MPS)

Listings come from brochures of events sanctioned by the International Volkswatchingverband (International Federation of Popular Stars). These walks are near U.S. military installations. More extensive lists are available at the IVV Web site: www.ivv.org.

Country/Town	Day(s) and Time(s)	Code	Km.	Starting Point	Award	Directional Reference
Belgium						
Grivevine	Sat & Sun 0700-1500	W	5	See misc. notes	Certificate	SE of Liège
Gat & Sun 0700-1500			6, 12, 21	See misc. notes	Certificate	SE of Liège
Grivevine	Sat & Sun 0630-1000	M	42	See misc. notes	Certificate	SE of Liège
Gat 0800-1500			7, 13, 20	Cultural Centrum	Sticker	NW of Maasticht
Gat 0700-1500			6, 12, 18	RBS Het Groene Dal	No award	SE of Brussels
Hoeilaart	Sun 0700-1500		24 & 30	RBS Het Groene Dal	No award	SE of Brussels
Hoeilaart	Sun 0700-0900	M	50	RBS Het Groene Dal	No award	SE of Brussels
Denmark						
Hillerød	Sun 0900-1000	-	5, 10, 15	Hillerødsholmskolen	No award	NW of Birked
Vilhelmsberg	Sun 0900-1100	-	7, 12, 18	Neving Skole	No award	NW of Herring
Germany						
Bingen-Kempen	Sat & Sun 0730-1500	FX	5	Sportheim Hassia	Winter wall plaque	RP, N of Bad Kreuznach
Bingen-Kempen	Sat & Sun 0730-1400	FX	10	Sportheim Hassia	Winter wall plaque	RP, N of Bad Kreuznach
Bingen-Kempen	Sat & Sun 0730-1300	FX	20	Sportheim Hassia	Winter wall plaque	RP, N of Bad Kreuznach
Dinschelde	Sat & Sun 0730-1300	BNFX	6, 10, 15	Schützenhalle	B-midi/Candle holder	NRW, SE of Attendorf
Endorf	Sat 0700-1300, Sun 0700-1200	CFN	5 & 10	Verbandschule	Famer girl figurine	OPF, SE of Almbach
Feldkirch	Sat & Sun 0700-1200	FX	5, 11, 22	Gemeindehalle	MOB, E of München	
Gundelfingen/Donau	Sat 1100-1600, Sun 0700-1300	BNFX	6, 10, 15	Brenzshalle	OPF, NE of Ulm	
Gundelfingen/Donau	Sat 1600-1800	BNFX	5 & 10	Brenzshalle	B-midi/Figurine	SCH, NE of Ulm
Holz/Saar	Sat & Sun 0700-1400	FX	6 & 12	Glück-Auf-Halle	SAR, N of Saarbrücken	
Holz/Saar	Sat 0700-1200	F	18	Glück-Auf-Halle	MOB, NE of München	
Margrethausen	Sat 1000-1800	FT	5 & 10	Festhalle	BWS, NW of Albstadt	
Markt Schwaben	Sun 0900-1400	Swim	300-1000m	Hallenbad	MOB, NE of München	
Ramstein	(Nov. 25) Thu 0730-1300	BFX	5 & 10	TV 03 Turnhalle	B-medal	RP, Landstuhlstr., & Jahnstr.
Tiefenbach	Sat 0800-1500	F	6	Besen-Hex	BWN, S of Sinheim	
Tiefenbach	Sat 0800-1400	F	11	Besen-Hex	BWN, S of Sinheim	
Tiefenbach	Sat 0800-1300	F	20	Besen-Hex	BWN, S of Sinheim	
Vogelndorf	Sat 0730-1300	F	5 & 10	Schützenhaus	Musical souvenir	E of Coburg
Windbach	Sun 0700-1300	BFX	5 & 10	Stadthalle	FRM, SE of Ansbach	
Italy						
Castellina	Sun 0900-1000	FX	6, 12, 22	Follow signs	Ceramic or wine	S of Udine
Pianella	Sun 0800-0900	FX	7, 13, 24	Plaza G. Marconi	No award	N of Vicenza
Luxembourg						
Bettendorf	Sun 0700-1400	F	5 & 10	Sport- u. Kulturzentrum	None	SW of Billberg, GE
Bettendorf	Sun 0700-1300	F	20	Sport- u. Kulturzentrum	None	SW of Billberg, GE
Netherlands						
Afferden a/d Maas	Sun 0800-1300	-	10 & 15	Gemeenschapshuis	Souvenir	N of Venray
Afferden a/d Maas	Sun 0800-1300	-	20 & 25	Gemeenschapschaps	Souvenir	N of Venray
D. Schneer/Wash facilities at start hall	Sun 0800-1300	-	9 & 12	Café de Haverput	No award	NE of Maasticht
Bunde	Sun 0800-1300	-	17 & 25	Café de Haverput	No award	NE of Maasticht
Switzerland						
Schönenberg	Sat & Sun 0800-1300	-	5 & 10	Oberholzer AG	Cow glass	NW of St. Gallen
United Kingdom						
Haydon	Sun 0930	-	5 & 10	Cross Keys PH	Souvenir	SE of Barnsley
Silkstone Common	Sun 0930	-	5 & 10	Railway Stn Car Park	No award	SW of Barnsley
Wellborough	Sun 1000-1100	-	5, 10, 20	The "Ock" N Dough	Souvenir	NE of Northampton

GENERAL NOTES:

- B - Awards from past events available (B-medals)
- N - Nordic walking event
- C - Bring a cup for free refreshments at the control points
- D - Shower/Wash facilities at start hall
- F - Free refreshment at control points

- M - Marathon or long-distance event
- N - Nordic walking event
- P - Music at start hall
- S - Stroller-friendly trails
- SW - Stroller-friendly trails
- T - Evening/Night walk, carry a flashlight

GERMAN STATE AND REGION CODES:

BWN - Baden-Württemberg Nord
BWS - Baden-Württemberg Süd
FRO - Oberfranken (Upper Franconia)
HWR - Mittelfranken (Middle Franconia)
FRU - Unterfranken (Lower Franconia)

HE - Hessen
MOB - München-Oberbayern
NDS - Niedersachsen/Berlin
NRW - Nordrhein-Westfalen
NDB - Niederbayern

- X - Award available while supply lasts
- W - Course suitable for wheelchairs
- Y - Young Walkers - Tour or Bambini-Liga event
- S - Reduced price of 2.50 euros for start card & B-medal
- Z - Reduced price of 3 euros for start card & B-medal

OPF - Oberpfalz
RP - Rheinland-Pfalz
SAR - Saarland
SCH - Schwaben
SHH - Schleswig-Holstein/Hamburg
THS - Thüringen/Sachsen

Tours & outdoors

Stars and Stripes

Stripes Travel prints as many upcoming Outdoor Recreation and USO tours and events as space allows. In some cases, organizations will have tours planned beyond the dates shown. To add or change a listing, send it via e-mail at least two weeks ahead of the desired publication date to travel@mail.strips.com. Please follow the format shown, with prices. SW tips appear at the end of the list. If you have questions, call (+49) 0 615-60-68.

Germany

Baumholder Outdoor Recreation:

Dec. 4, Christmas Market in Rotherberg ob der Tuber, \$55; **Dec. 11,** Rock Fun Run (starts at 9 a.m.), \$10, min. age 18; **Dec. 17-19,** Polish pottery and wicker shopping, Bolesławiec, Poland, \$115. There will be several running events throughout 2005 around the Baumholder area, all starting at the Hall of Champions. Call DSN 485-7182 or 06783-6-7182 or go to www.armygermany.com/vod/baum.html.

Hannau Outdoor Recreation: Dec. 4,

Frankfurt Christmas market, \$35; **Dec. 11,** Nürnberg Christmas market, \$49; **Dec. 18,** Dresden Christmas market, \$49. DSN 322-6015 or at Old Argonne Kasern, DSN 322-8891.

Kaiserslautern Outdoor Recreation:

Nov. 21, spa day, \$30; **Nov. 26,** Central Mall shopping trip, \$35, visit the largest mall in Europe; **Nov. 28,** Stuttgart Christmas market, \$30; **Dec. 3,** after-work spa night, \$30; **Dec. 3-5,** Prague, \$189; **Dec. 4,** Colmar and Riquewihr, \$189; **Dec. 11,** Nürnberg Christmas markets, \$35; **Dec. 5,** Rotherberg Christmas market, \$32; **Dec. 5,** trout fishing, \$35; **Dec. 10-12,** Paris, \$169; **Dec. 10-12,** Poland shopping express, \$120; **Dec. 11,** Nürnberg Christmas market, \$38; **Dec. 12,** Valkenburg caves Christmas market, \$38, shop while strolling through underground Dutch caves; **Dec. 15,** Central Mall shopping trip, \$35, visit the largest mall in Europe; **Dec. 18,** Battle of the Bulge 60th Anniversary Memorial Walk in Belgium, \$38; **Dec. 18,** Luxembourg Christmas market and volkswatching, \$30; **Dec. 18,** Central Mall shopping trip, \$35; **Dec. 19,** Stuttgart Christmas market, \$30. Call DSN 489-7751 or CIV 0631-536-7751.

Katterbach Outdoor Recreation:

Dec. 4, Heidelberg Christmas market, \$35; **Dec. 15,** Rotherberg Christmas market, \$35; **Dec. 22,** Ansbach Christmas market, DSN 467-3225 or CIV 09803-63-3225, BOSS offerings: **Dec. 30-Jan. 2,** New Year's in Paris, \$250, sign up by Dec. 16 at the Terrace Playhouse. Call DSN 468-7636 or CIV 0981-183-636.

Mannheim Outdoor Recreation:

Nov. 27, paintball, \$15 with your equipment, \$20 with ORF; **Nov. 20,** wall climbing, \$35. DSN 381-7215/7232 or CIV 0621-703-7215/7232.

Ramstein (KMC) RT Distinctions

Unlimited: Dec. 4, 12, 18, Castles on the Rhine (two castles, cruise, lunch, wine tasting, shopping), \$89; **Dec. 10-12,** Prague and Karlovy Vary, one hotel night downtown with three meals and city tour, \$189; **Dec. 18-19,** Brussels and Brugge, one hotel night downtown and city tours, \$169; **Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, and 18,**

SEE TOURS, PAGE 29



TOURS, FROM PAGE 28

Rotheng and Nürnberg Christmas markets, \$59; **Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, and 18**, Christmas in Cologne, \$49; **Dec. 4, 11 and 18**, Nancy (France) Christmas, visit the St. Nicholas Basilica, candy making and tasting, \$59.

RTT flight tours from Frankfurt: **Nov. 20-27**, Egypt, \$149 euros includes flight, hotels, tours, admissions and three-day Nile cruise; **Dec. 27-Jan. 2**, Shanghai, China, \$199 euros includes hotel, flights, tours; **Dec. 24-31**, Egypt, \$129 euros includes flight, hotels, tours, admissions and three days of cruising the Nile, plus New Year's dinner gala; **April 9-16**, Beijing and Xi'an, China, includes tours of the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Xi'an's Terra Cotta Warriors, \$129 euros covers

flight, tours, admissions, many meals; **March 13-20**, Moscow and St. Petersburg, \$1049 euros includes flight, hotels, train, admissions and six days of tours with lunches. Call DSN 480-6330/489-7064/496-7719 or consult www.RTTTravel.com.



Spangdahlem Outdoor Recreation offerings:

Dec. 4, North Sea fishing, \$125 per person, min. age 14; **Dec. 11**, Christmas caves of Valkenburg, \$25 adults, \$15 ages 6-12, min. age 6. Call DSN 452-7176 or COM 06565-61-7176 for more information.

Spangdahlem Information, Tickets and Travel: Dec. 4, Bavarian castles, \$89 adults, \$79 children; **Dec. 4**, Brugge Christmas market, \$45 adults, \$42 children; **Dec. 4**, Frankfurt Christmas market, \$35

adults, \$30 children; **Dec. 11**, Nürnberg Christmas market, \$55 adults, \$50 children; **Dec. 11**, Heideberg Christmas market, \$33 per person; **Dec. 11**, Strasbourg Christmas market, \$39 adults, \$34 children; **Dec. 18**, Brussels Christmas market, \$39 adults, \$34 children; **Dec. 18**, Reims Christmas market, \$37 adults, \$32 children; **Dec. 23-26**, Prague for Christmas, two overnights, \$395 adults, \$388 children, 10 early-booking discount on or before Nov. 23; **Dec. 30-Jan. 1**, Paris, two overnights, \$319 adults; **Dec. 30-Jan. 1**, Berlin, one overnight, \$195 adults; **Dec. 31**, Amsterdam Express, \$80 per person; **Dec. 31-Jan. 1**, Paris, one overnight, \$229 adults; DSN 452-6567 or COM 06565-61-6567.

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation: Dec. 28, ice skating in

Frankfurt, \$10. DSN 337-5760.

ODR SKI TOURS

BAUMHOLTER, DSN 485-7182: Nov. 24-27 Kaprun, \$415.

GIESSEN, DSN 343-6202: Nov. 26-30, Zermatt, Dec. 13, Garmisch, price TBA.

KATTERBACH, DSN 467-3225 or CIV 0802-83-3225: Dec. 11, Garmisch, Germany, Dec. 24-26, Austria. Call for prices.

HANAU, DSN 322-6015: Nov. 24-28 Zermatt, \$229.

KAISERSLAUTERN, DSN 489-7751: Nov. 19-21, Hintertux, \$145; Nov. 20, ski express \$55; Nov. 25-28, Kaprun, \$235; Nov. 27, ski express \$55; Dec. 3-5, Oberurg, \$189; Dec. 4, ski express \$55; Dec. 11, ski express \$55; Dec.

17-19, Laax-Films, \$189; Dec. 18, ski express \$55; Dec. 23-26, Zermatt, \$229; Dec. 23-26, Garmisch, \$279; Dec. 25, ski express/Garmisch, \$55; Dec. 26, ski express/Feldberg, \$55; Dec. 30-Jan. 2, Garmisch, \$279.

MANNHEIM, DSN 381-7215: Dec. 18 and 26, Engelberg, \$50.

SPANGDAHLEM, DSN 452-7176: Nov. 24-28, Gstaad, \$250 dorm, \$365 double.

STUTTGART, DSN 431-2774: Dec. 26-Jan. 2, Gstaad, \$620 to \$310 depending on age.

VICENZA (ITALY), DSN 634-7453: Nov. 27, Val Senales; Dec. 4 & 5, Obereggen; Dec. 11, San Martino; Dec. 18, Alleghe.

WIESBADEN, DSN 337-5760: Dec. 11 and 18, Engelberg.



alpine snow conditions

date of report as noted "All measurements in centimeters"

Resort	Snow Base Top/Bottom	Last Snow	New Snow	Lifts Open	General Information
Cervinia, IT	97/50	11/11	10	8/20	Eight runs open; Link to Zermatt open, 11/14
Gstaad, SW	200	11/11	5	5/83	Terrain park open, 11/13
Heideberg, AUS	160/25	11/11	20	14/21	1/2 pipe & terrain park; 12 runs avail, 11/13
Kaprun, AUS	117/54	11/10	40	8/24	Good snowfall over resort. Runs good, 11/11
Germerthal, AUS	50/0	11/10	17	5/9	Good riding and skiing, 11/13
Gitschbühnen, AUS	117/53/5	11/8	10	10/28	X-country skiing and ice skating, six runs, 11/13
Les Diablerets, SW	20/0	11/11	5	5/36	Some icy patches on main runs, 11/11
Mollath Glacier, AUS	100/15	11/11	20	5/10	23km of open terrain avail, 11/13
Nussli, AUS	70/5	11/11	25	15/24	20km of open terrain; 4 runs open, 11/13
Passo Tonale, IT	132/50	11/11	20	6/26	Half of open terrain; 4 runs open, 11/13
Pital, AUS	80/40	11/11	10	7/7	Glacier has 80% open terrain and all lifts, 11/13
Saas-Fee, SW	162/10	11/11	10	7/22	expect more snow on the glacier, 11/13
Sölden, AUS	325/135	11/10	20	8/34	33km of open terrain & hiking 4 walking lifts, 11/15
Tignes, FR	50/0	11/11	0	9/14	Skiing and boarding conditions okay, 11/11
Val Senales, IT	35/0	11/11	5	6/12	Resort enjoying fresh powder, 11/11
Zermatt, SW	85/0	11/2	0	7/30	Snow conditions reasonable, 11/13

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CIV: 0611/705 5760 DSN: 337 5760

Outdoor Recreation Ski Schedule

Kaiserslautern: Polsterli Barock 489 7751/0431 536 7751 Nov 27 & Dec 4 Ski Express Dec 3-5 Oberurg, Austria

Darmstadt: Candore-Fritsch Aussen 348 4277/0431 49 4277 Nov 25-28 Skiing in St. Veit, Austria

Mannheim: Taylor Barock 381 7215/0421 730 7215 Dec 18 Ski Trip, Engelberg, Switzerland

Heidelberg: Henry Kilger 388 9122/0421 338 9122 Jan 8 Ski Trip, Engelberg, Switzerland

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Saturday-Monday: Wiesbaden & Thunberg (on Ardenne Skiway)

located in Bsp. 204 (on Ardenne Skiway) (German Postcard)

AMERICAN EXPRESS

every Thursday in stripes...

The Powder Hound

your guide to winter sports

Calendar

Let's Go

COMPILED BY
JAYNE TRANDLY
Stripes Travel researcher

Listings are the latest available at press time but are subject to change. It's wise to confirm details with local tourism offices before traveling.

BELGIUM

Telephone: (32) 2/50-40-390
Fax: (32) 2/50-40-270
E-mail: info@viseigebel.com
BRUGES: Winterfun fair, through **Nov. 24**. Simon Stevinplein, Jan van Eyckplein
MECHELEN: Christmas horse show, **Nov. 26-30**. Mechelen Nekeldier.
BRUSSELS: Christmas market, **Dec. 6-Jan. 6**.
BRUSSELS: Celebration of 175th anniversary, **throughout the year**.

DENMARK

Telephone: (45) 33/11-325
Fax: (45) 33/93-4969
E-mail: dt@dt.dk
www.visitdenmark.com
COPENHAGEN: Christmas market, **through Dec. 23**. Tivoli Gardens
ARHUS: Christmas market, **Dec. 1-23**.

ODENSE: Christmas market, **Dec. 4-5, 11-12**.
COPENHAGEN: Opening of the city opera, **Jan. 15**.

ENGLAND

www.visitbritain.com
BIRMINGHAM: Festive gift fair, **through Nov. 21, NEC**.
www.festivegiftfair.co.uk
YORK: St. Nicholas' fair, **Nov. 25-28**.
WORCESTER: Christmas fair, **Nov. 25-28**.

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kelleyg@stripes.osd.mil

British bits

VisitBritain sends along these
newspaper notices:

• **The largest shopping and leisure complex in Europe**, the Red Mall, opened last month in Gateshead, England, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne. It covers 1.7 million square feet and is open seven days a week (10 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Hours vary on holidays.) For details on the shops and entertainment, directions and local accommodations, go to **www.metrocentre-gateshead.co.uk**.

• **The world's largest working steam engine**, the Sir William Prescott, built in 1928, is on display in the Engine House of Kempton Park Waterworks in Hamworthy near Twickenham near London. Sixty-two feet high and 800 tons, it once worked 24 hours a day to pump 16 million gallons of water. It will be in

steam March 12 to 13, June 11 to 12 and Oct. 15 to 16 and on display at other times. Admission is 5 pounds (about \$10). The Web site is **www.kemptonsteam.org**.
• **Whiskey lovers** will want to check out the Scotch Whiskey Association and the tourist board's new Web site: **www.scotlandwhisky.com**. It includes information on accommodations and inns with great whiskey bars, events, festivals and distilleries.

• **If you want to explore your Scottish heritage**, try **www.austrianscotland.com**. Information includes records dating from 1790s parish records; clan itineraries and tartans, mottoes and standards; and links for genealogy searches.

• **BritRail will take 25 percent off the price of BritRail** Consecutive and BritRail Flexi Passes until Feb. 28. The Web site is **www.britrail.com**.

JAYNE TRANDLY
Specialist to Stars and Stripes

LONDON: Christmas craft fair and festive table, **Nov. 26-28**. Alexandra Palace.
BIRMINGHAM: Birmingham tattoo, **Nov. 26-28, NEC**.
LONDON: New Year's Day parade, **Jan. 1**.

FRANCE

Telephone: (33) 1/49 52 53 54
Fax: (33) 1/49 52 53 54
www.francetourism.com
METZ: Flea market, **Dec. 12** (7 a.m.-6 p.m.).
• **Dec. 18**. Open 6 a.m.-noon.
BEAUJOUR: Les Trois Glorieuses, **Nov. 19-21**. Wine auction, **www.burgundy-tourism.com**.
MULHOUSE: Christmas market, **Nov. 26-29**.
REIMS: Christmas village, **Nov. 26-Dec. 24**.
COLMAR: Christmas market, **Nov. 26-Dec. 24, Dec. 26-31**.
SELESTAT (Alsace): Christmas market, **Nov. 27-Dec. 31**.
STRASBOURG: Christmas market, **Nov. 27-Dec. 31**.
PARIS (Île-de-France): Horse, pony and donkey fair, **Nov. 27-Dec. 5**.
Bordeaux: Versailles, **www.comexpo-paris.com**.
PARIS: International nautical fair, **Dec. 3-13**.
MUNSTER (Alsace): Christmas market, **Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19**.

GERMANY

Telephone: (49) 69/97464-0
Fax: (49) 69/751-903
www.germany-tourism.de
HAMBURG: **through Dec. 5**. Fair.
MANNHEIM-HEIDELBERG: International film festival, **through Nov. 27**.
BOONN: Christmas market, **through Dec. 23**.
KOBLENZ: Christmas market, **Nov. 20-22**.
THIER: Christmas market, **Nov. 22-Dec. 22**.
KOLN: Christmas market, **Nov. 22-Dec. 23**.

WIESBADEN: Christmas market, **Nov. 23-Dec. 23**.
FRANKFURT: Christmas market, **Nov. 24-22**.
HEIDELBERG: Christmas market, **Nov. 24-Dec. 22**.
MANNHEIM: Christmas market, **Nov. 24-Dec. 23**.
BREITENBURG: Christmas market, **Nov. 24-Dec. 23**.
MUNICH: Tollwood, **Nov. 25-Dec. 31**.
BADEN-BADEN: Christmas market, **Nov. 26-Dec. 22**.
STUTTGART: Christmas market, **Nov. 26-Dec. 23**.
NÜRNBERG: Christmas market, **Nov. 26-Dec. 24**.
MUNICH: Christmas market, **Nov. 26-Dec. 24**.
BAMBERG: Christmas market, **Nov. 28-Dec. 23**.

ITALY

Telephone: (39) 06/49-711
Fax: (39) 06/446-9907
www.taliantourism.com
ALVARO: New oil and wine festival, **Nov. 20-21**.
VENICE: Festival of La Salute, **Nov. 21**.
FLORENCE: City marathon, **Nov. 28**.
VENICE: Festa di San Nicolo, **Dec. 14-20**.
MURANO: Christmas market, **Dec. 6-24**.
SANTO STEFANO Sq.
ROMA: Napoca Christmas market, **Dec. 8-Jan. 6**.
PIAZZA NAVONA
VERONA: Christmas cribs in the arena, **Dec. 6-Jan. 25**.

THE NETHERLANDS

Telephone: (31) 70/370-5705
Fax: (31) 70/320-1654
www.holland.com/uk
AMSTERDAM: IDFA, **through Nov. 28**. International documentary film festival.
GENEVA: Christmas market, **through Dec. 12**.
MAASTRICHT: Christmas market, **Nov. 28-Dec. 31**.

Best bets for the week

GERMANY: Considered one of the most important film fests in Europe for international newcomers, the Mannheim Film Festival runs through **Nov. 27** in Mannheim and Heidelberg. Up to 40 new feature films from 29 countries have been chosen from more than 700 entries to compete in the International Competition and the International Discoveries program.

Promoters say Eastern European entries will be particularly interesting this year, with films from Bulgaria, Estonia, Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia and Serbia. Special screenings include an homage to Wim Wenders, an homage to Edgar Reitz, and Films of the London International Film School.

Tickets are available at the box office on the Parade Office in Mannheim and the box office on the Universitätsplatz in Heidelberg. Tickets cost 4 to 6.50 euros for a single, 15 euros for a day, 55 euros for a 10-day card, 58 and 35 euros for festival passes, and 3 euros for the "Sunday after." Discounts are available. The festival hot line is (+49) (0) 621/1225 120. The Web site is **www.mannheim-filmfestival.com**.

ITALY: As thanks to the Madonna for delivering them

from the plague, the Senate of the Republic in Venice decided on Oct. 22, 1630, to build a temple dedicated to her. The result was the Church of Santa Maria della Salute on the eastern top of Dorsoduro. Since its consecration in 1687, the Festa della Madonna della Salute has been held on Nov. 21 to celebrate this event.

As in the past, a procession will travel from Piazza San Marco to the church via a temporary bridge over the Grand Canal from Santa Maria del Grigio. During the day, thousands will go through its doors to light a candle and pray to the Virgin Mary. On the outside grounds, stalls will sell pastries, toys and religious items.

SWITZERLAND: If you love onions, be sure to be in Bern Monday for the annual Zibele-Markt. In the area between the train station and the Bundesplatz, the square facing the Parliament buildings, a market filled with vendors will be selling more than 100 tons of onions and other products. In the afternoon, a carnival of sorts begins with people dressed in costumes, and confetti fights at 4 p.m. In the evening, the pubs continue the party with drinks and ironic poetry readings. The market is officially open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

— JAYNE TRANDLY

VATICAN CITY

Telephone: (39) 06/698-84466 or 698-84466
Fax: (39) 06/698-85100
VATICAN: Christmas concert, **Dec. 18**.

SPAIN

Telephone: (34) 91/411-4014/6011
Fax: (34) 91/564-9988
www.tourspain.co.uk
MADRID: Jazz show, **through Nov. 20**.
www.munimadrid.es
BARCELONA: Jazz festival, **through Dec. 15**.
www.the-project.net

SWITZERLAND

Telephone: (41) 1288-1111
www.switzerlandtourism.ch
BERN: Onion market, **Nov. 22**.
ZÜRICH: Christmas market, **Nov. 25-Dec. 31**. St. Nicholas parade, **Nov. 28**.
BASEL: Christmas market, **Nov. 25-Dec. 23**.
BERN: Christmas market, **Nov. 27-Dec. 24**.
GENEVA: Christmas market, **Nov. 28-Dec. 24**.
KUSNACHT AM RIGI: Clausjungen, **Dec. 3**. Traditional event with masks.
GENEVA: Fête de l'Escalade, **Dec. 11-12**.
LUZERN: Christmas market, **Dec. 14-24**.



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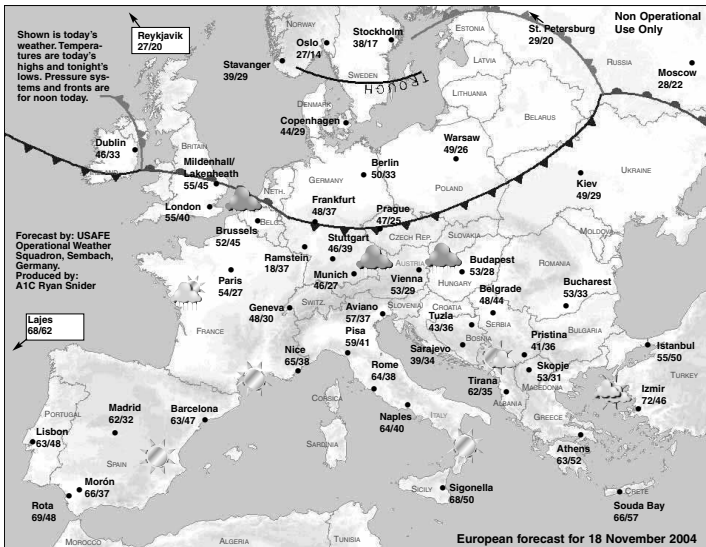
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EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rain. Highs in the 40s to 50s. Lows in the 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain.
Highs in the upper 40s to mid 50s,
Friday's lows in the mid 30s to mid

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly to mostly cloudy with fog in the morning. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s, Friday's lows in the mid 30s.

France: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers in the north and sunny in the south. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 60s, Friday's lows in the mid 20s to upper 30s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with rain. Highs in the upper 40s to low 50s, Friday's, lows in the 30s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with rain. Highs in the mid to upper 40s, Friday's lows in the mid 20s to upper 30s

Hungary: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 50s, Friday's lows in the upper 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 50s, Friday's lows in the upper 30s to lower 40s

Southern Italy: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 60s, Friday's lows in the lower 40s to lower 50s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 40s to mid 50s, Friday's lows in the lower to mid 30s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain/snow showers. Highs in the upper 20s to upper 30s, Friday's lows in the mid teens.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny to partly cloudy. Highs in the 60s, Friday's lows in lower 30s to the upper 40s.

Turkey: Partly to mostly cloudy.
Highs in the lower 70s to lower 80s
in the south, with highs of the mid
50s in the north, Friday's lows in mid
40s to low 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:37am	6:38am
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:41am	7:42am
Sunset (Baghdad)	4:59pm	4:59pm
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:38pm	4:37pm

	Today	Tomorrow
		
New moon 12 Dec	First qtr. 19 Nov	Full moon 26 Nov
		Last qtr. 5 Dec

KEY: Sunny Pt. Cldy. Mostly cldy. Cloudy Showers T-storms Rain Rain/snow Snow

Cold frnt. Warm frnt. TROUGH Occluded fr. Staty. front

L H Low High

AFRICA

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	80	60	Mogadishu	85	75
Dakar	87	75	Nairobi	78	55
Freetown	88	75	Rabat	70	48

THE WORLD

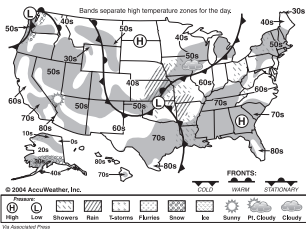
	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	50	36	Manila	88	76
Bahrain	89	68	Mexico City	72	48
Beijing	56	31	Montreal	47	38
Beirut	71	61	Riyadh	90	62
Bermuda	69	63	Rio de Jan	81	70
Caracas	87	77	Seoul	60	38
Helsinki	32	12	Sofia	54	26
Hong Kong	77	63	Sydney	88	72
Istanbul	62	49	Tyburn	81	62

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

[illegible]

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

Burger bonanza

TN CHATTANOOGA — Takeru "The Tsunami" Kobayashi ate 69 mini-hamburgers in eight minutes to collect \$10,000 and be crowned the first Krystal Square-Off World Hamburger Eating Champion.

The 130-pound Kobayashi, who is also the champion of Nathan's International Hot Dog Eating Contest held on Coney Island, N.Y., beat 13 other contestants.

Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas ate 46 small square hamburgers for second place and \$5,000, and Richard "The Locust" LeFevre ate 41 for third place and \$2,500.

Not the cable guy

CT WEST HAVEN — In a hard hat and tool belt, police said Jerome Dunbar looked just like every other cable repairman.

Problem was, authorities said, he couldn't legally do the work. Dunbar appeared in court on charges he took \$100 from a local family to loop up their disconnected cable service.

Authorities said they discovered the alleged scheme when they saw him climbing a ladder on a telephone pole, and because it was an odd time for the line work, investigators doubted his credentials.

Dunbar was charged with one count of theft of a community antenna for profit.

School greets up gift

MT GREAT FALLS — A part-time janitor who worked at the University of Great Falls has left the college \$2.3 million — the largest gift the school has ever received.

Genesio Morlacci died on Halloween at the age of 102. Morlacci, a former dry cleaner, owned Sun Cleaners for several years before selling his business and going to work as a janitor at UGF.

A native of Italy, Morlacci directed that 95 percent of the money go to scholarships. The university can choose how to spend the remainder.

Cops stun kid again

FL MIAMI — Police have acknowledged using a stun gun to immobilize a 12-year-old girl just weeks after an officer jolted a first-grader with 50,000 volts. Police Director Bobby Parker said that he could not defend the decision to shock the fleeing girl, who was skipping school and apparently drunk.

According to the incident report, officer William Nelson responded to a complaint that children were swimming in a pool, drinking alcohol and smoking cigars.

Nelson said he noticed the girl was intoxicated and was walking her to his car to take her back to school when she ran away through a parking lot.

Nelson, 38, said he chased her and yelled several times for her to stop before firing the Taser when she began to run away from him.

Parker said department policy permits officers to use the Taser to apprehend someone, but he said he expected his officers to use better judgment, especially when po-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

lice had no plans to arrest the girl.

Orangutan makeover

IL CHICAGO — A middle-aged female orangutan called Maggie is fitter, trimmer and looking for love after undergoing what her keepers call "Maggie's Extreme Makeover."

In addition to healthier-looking skin and fur, Maggie has dropped 90 pounds and no longer snores or suffers from the flatulence, runny nose and constipation that once plagued her until keepers detected a thyroid condition.

Until treatment, keepers had tried unsuccessfully to get the 43-year-old ape to shed some pounds. Male orangutans didn't interest her, either.

The thyroid treatment also has Maggie looking for love because it regulated her menstrual cycle and jump-started her desire to mate. Maggie, who socialized little when she first arrived at the suburban Chicago zoo in 1995, is now paying more attention to the male orangutans, officials said.

Expensive project finished

AK ANCHORAGE — Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. has completed a \$6.5 million project strengthening the 800-mile-long trans-Alaska pipeline. The compa-



Braving the weather

Doug and Ashley James, both 19, of Warrenton, Mo., walk through the surf on New Smyrna Beach, Fla. The beach was almost empty as a storm front brought high winds and rough surf.

ny says the pipeline should be able to withstand an 8.0-magnitude earthquake through the Denali fault corridor, according to project manager Tom Coghill. The pipeline carries about 1 million barrels of oil a day.

Costly halfway house

WA SEATTLE — A halfway house for sex predators would cost \$1 million a year for each of the first two men in the program, officials say. The state plans to move the men next summer to the building beneath the West Seattle Bridge. It will have a staff of 22 people for round-the-clock security.

Beauty rabbit pageant

RI PROVIDENCE — Coifed, pampered and fluffed, about 15,000 rabbits were getting ready for competition at the American Rabbit Breeders Association convention, where judges will be awarding prizes for best in show and other categories.

The event isn't as prestigious and the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, but it can be as spirited. Organizers at the Rhode Island Convention Center gush about the pampered and coddled stars of the event, keeping them in top condition — no matted fur, runny eyes or sore spots.

During the week, the handlers of the show bunnies also will attend various association meetings and other events.

It's the first time the breeders association, based in Bloomington, Ill., has met in Rhode Island and the first time in 50 years that the convention has been held in the Northeast.

Dollar goes 'dam' far

LA GREENSBURG — Beavers found a bag of bills stolen from a casino, tore it open and wove the money into the sticks and brush of their dam on a creek near Baton Rouge.

"They hadn't torn the bills up. They were still whole," said Maj. Michael Martin of the East Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office.

The money was part of at least \$70,000 stolen from the Lucky Dollar Casino in Greensburg, about 30 miles northeast of Baton Rouge.

Sheriff's deputies in St. Helena Parish, where the truck stop video poker casino is located, have accused a security guard at the casino of disabling its security cameras. Jacqueline Wall, 25, was booked with felony theft, Martin said.

She told investigators a ski-masked gunman made her help him empty all the casino's safes, then kidnapped her, knocked her out and left her in an uninhabited area in East Feliciana Parish.

Governor-elect cleared

MO JEFFERSON CITY — The state Ethics Commission cleared Gov.-elect Matt Blunt of allegations he used government money for political purposes by running pro-voting newspaper ads featuring his smiling face. Blunt, as secretary of state, purchased \$48,000 in advertisements for federal funds just before the Aug. 3 primary in which he was a Republican candidate for governor.



Were you a good boy? Boston Bean, a 2-year-old Boston terrier, gets a close look at Santa before having a Christmas photo taken at the Fox Valley Humane Association fundraiser in Greenville, Wis.



Out for a ride Marly Diver enjoys a brisk fall afternoon ride on her recumbent bicycle around Duncan Park in Spartanburg, S.C.



Fishing in the fog Sam Bosier prepares two poles while fishing on Stillhouse Hollow Lake in Harker Heights, Texas, as a heavy fog blankets the central Texas region.



Autumn chores

Helen Cargill, 10, left, and her brother, Henry Cargill, 11, had their hands full in front of their home in St. Joseph, Mo.



Note to birds ...

A Siamese cat takes advantage of a bird bath for a drink outside of the Center for Art and Education in Van Buren, Ark.



Feeding time

Woody Pike hand-feeds some of the 2-year-old alligators in a holding pen at Gatorama near Palmdale, Fla.

Penalties crowd prisons

KY LOUISVILLE — Kentucky's prison population has exploded by 600 percent since 1970 and will keep growing because of "irrational" penalties enacted by lawmakers, according to a study.

University of Kentucky law professor Robert Lawson, who wrote Kentucky's penal code, says the state's budget for housing prisoners has risen from \$7 million to more than \$300 million since 1970 and is threatening to bankrupt the system.

Funny money case

PA GREENSBURG — Charges have been dropped against a woman who paid for clothes with a fake \$200 bill that featured President Bush's picture and the serial number DUBYA4U2001.

Westmoreland County prosecutors dropped all charges against Deborah L. Trautwine, 51, after she paid the store in real currency. Trautwine wasn't aware that the bill was not actual legal tender, said her attorney, Harry Small Jr.

A clerk at a Fashion Bug clothing store also apparently was fooled by the funny money. She gave Trautwine \$100.58 in change following an August transaction.

There is no \$200 denomination bill, even without Bush's picture on it. The back of the phony bill depicted the White House with several signs erected on the front lawn, including those reading "We Like broccoli" and "USA Deserves A Tax Cut."

Carbon monoxide kills 2

FL MIAMI — Two college students were found dead in a parked minivan along a Florida roadside, apparent victims of carbon monoxide poisoning. The van's engine was still running when they were discovered, authorities said.

A sheriff's deputy was on routine patrol west of Fort Lauderdale when he spotted the vehicle near Weston. The windows were fogged up and a tail light was out. The exhaust system of the minivan was "in disrepair," officials said.

The victims were identified as 19-year-old Janelle Bertot and Tony Perez, 25. Both attended Florida International University.

"They were apparently popular and very loved students who were very involved in the university," FIU spokeswoman Maydel Santana-Bravo said.

They had been dating for about a month, friends said.

Outpouring for police dog

MN DULUTH — Newspaper readers were so touched by the story of a blind police dog named Timber that they paid for an operation to restore his sight.

In fact, they paid for the \$2,500 surgery many times over.

Officer Michelle Rafferty was ready to cover the cost out of her own pocket rather than let her cash-strapped department exchange her partner for a new dog.

But when a story about Timber's cataract operation and Rafferty's devotion appeared in the Star Tribune of Minneapolis last month,

readers sent more than \$20,000.

Two weeks later, 22-month-old Timber appears to see well, perhaps for the first time.

When nature called last week, he had no trouble zigzagging through a stand of trees before selecting one that suited his purpose.

Museum diagnosis

IN BLOOMINGTON — A trip to a children's science museum proved to be a day of discovery for a 5-year-old boy and his mother, who discovered a possible heart condition in the child while checking out an exhibit.

The Rhythm of Life exhibit at the WonderLab hands-on museum allows two people to sit on either side of a bass drum and grasp a horizontal metal bar. Brass sensors detect each person's pulse, which triggers a drumstick to beat in time with the person's heart.

Melissa Hinkle noticed that her drumstick was beating about 80 times per minute, while her son's peaked at 150 times per minute.

The average heart rate for a child his age is 100.

Hinkle whisked her son to a hospital emergency room.

An electrocardiogram confirmed he had an elevated heart rate, so cardiologists gave him a heart rate monitor that he wears round-the-clock.

Dr. Richard Malone, the boy's pediatrician, said abnormal heart rates can be triggered by a number of causes such as fever, exercise, dehydration or anxiety. He said the condition is often successfully treated.

Company moves to China

SD WATERTOWN — A major employer is moving most of its business to China to save money and be closer to most of its customers.

CoEv Magnetics, a unit of Tyco Electronics, is ending its manufacturing operations and laying off 111 employees, officials said. The Watertown location will become a business development and support center with a staff of 32.

Holy cheese sandwich

FL MIAMI — The people at eBay were no believers in this cheesy miracle: half of a 10-year-old grilled cheese sandwich whose owner claimed it bore the image of the Virgin Mary.

Diana Duyser put the sandwich up for sale, drawing bids as high as \$22,000 before eBay pulled the item.

The page was viewed nearly 100,000 times before being taken down.

An e-mail Duyser received from eBay said the sandwich broke its policy, which "does not allow listings that are intended as jokes."

But Duyser, a jewelry designer who has bought and sold items on eBay for two years, insisted this was not a laughing matter.

Duyser, 52, said she took a bite after making it 10 years ago and saw a face staring back at her from the bread.

She put the sandwich in a clear plastic bag with cotton balls and kept it on her night stand.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated station listings are available on the first scoreboard page in the sports section or AFRTS's Web site at <http://myaftrts.dodmedia.mil/>

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2004

	AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	(SPECTRUM)	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00	Stanley "Stinky Amos"	Movie "No Greater Love"	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(1996, Drama) Kelly Rutherford, Chris Sarandon.	(16:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Nightly Business Report		Low Carb & Lovin' It	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		(23:46) Guiding Light	ESPNNews	Herbal With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	ESPNNews
10:30	Between the Lions (E)	(14:56) Movie *** "The Electric Blue Horseman" (1976) Robert Redford, Jane Fonda. A former rodeo champion finds his second chance.	(17:21) General Hospital	Two and a Half Men	60 Minutes II		Style Star	Pacific Report
11:30	Stanley		Headline News	(2:25) Will & Grace	The Bachelor	SportsCenter	El Niño Live	Two and a Half Men
12:00	Ursa the Explorer		Judge Judy	The O'Reilly Factor			The King of Queens	(2:25) Will & Grace
12:30	The Wiggles		Today Colin Firth, It's Cop-Times	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Suckers"	Good Morning America	NFL Live	Girlfriends "Santa vs. Monica"	The Bachelor
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie *** "The French Lieutenant's Woman" (1981)	Today Colin Firth, It's Cop-Times	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Suckers"	Good Morning America		Charmed "Final Big Bang"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Suckers"
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)	Drama! Mary Streep, Jeremy Irons. An address on-screen and off-screen lives intermingles.	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show			Aly McBeal "Blue Christmas"	Pacific Report
14:00	Blue's Clues		The Legend of Tarzan		Headline News		Any Day Now "It's a Mother-Sister Reunion"	The Tonight Show
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Late Show		The Early Show Thanksgiving desserts.	SportsCenter	ER "Beyond Repair"	Late Show
15:00	Funtastic Home Videos	(18:16) Movie *** "Throw Momma From the Train" (1987)	Sabrina, the Animated Series					
15:30	Full House "One Last Kiss"	Danny DeVito, Billy Crystal.	In the Mix	Access Hollywood				
16:00	Pokémon		Headline News	Headline News	Headline News	Totally NASCAR	Law & Order "Ritual"	Access Hollywood
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Headline News	The Late Late Show		SportsCenter		The Late Late Show
17:00	AAahh! Real Monsters		Headline News					
17:30	Rocket Power "U is for Dad"	Short Movies	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	FOX News	Sports	The Simpsons	
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	FOX News		Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
18:30	Rugrats		Two and a Half Men	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	60 Minutes II		Summertime "Fireworks"	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
19:00	That's So Raven	Movie *** "Big Daddy" (1999)	(2:25) Will & Grace	The Bachelor	Entertainment Studios.com		The Practice "Small Sacrifices"	Entertainment Studios.com
19:30	AI That	Comedy! Adam Sandler. A goofy nee-to-do well adopts an impressionable youngster.	Headline News					
20:00	Pin Heaven "Sunday"		Headline News					
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(18:46) Movie *** "Star Trek: Nemesis" (2002) Patrick Stewart, Captain Picard faces his Roman-engineered clone.	Headline News	The Tonight Show			Frontline	The Hot List
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	Today Colin Firth, It's Cop-Times	Headline News	The Hot List	Friends	Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show		The Tonight Show		Air Force TV News	The Hot List	Friends (Part 1 of 2)	Headline News
22:30	Home Improvement	Movie *** "An Innocent Man" (1989) Tom Selleck.	Late Show		Leiter Not Live	Around the Horn	The Daily Show	Headline News
23:30	Home Improvement					Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	Headline News

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2004

00:00	Hey Arnold!	(11:50) Movie *** "An Innocent Man" (1989, Drama)	Late Show	Play With Me Sesame	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power	Movie *** "The Nighty Nighty" (1989, Drama) Denzel Washington, Robert Townsend, James Fox	Access Hollywood	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)	NBC Nightly News		Summertime "Fireworks"	Clifford the Big Red Dog (E)
1:00	Rugrats		Sports	Wheel of Fortune	ABC World News Tonight	NBA Action	Wheel of Fortune	Wheel of Fortune
2:00	That's So Raven		Dr. Phil	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	ABC Evening News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	The Practice "Small Sacrifices"	Dr. Phil
3:00	AI That	Movie *** "Big Daddy" (1999, Comedy) Adam Sandler. A goofy nee-to-do well adopts an impressionable youngster.	Oprah Winfrey	Nightly News	Harmony & Colmes		Frontline	Oprah Winfrey
3:30	Pin Heaven "Sunday"		NBC Nightly News	Jeopardy!	NewsHour Weekend With Jim Lehrer	NBA Basketball Teams to Be Announced.	Friends	NBC Nightly News
4:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	(14:46) Movie *** "Star Trek: Nemesis" (2002) Patrick Stewart, Captain Picard faces his Roman-engineered clone.	Headline News	Access Hollywood	Low Dobbs Tonight		Seinfeld (Part 1 of 2)	Judge Judy
4:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	(2:25) Guiding Light	Caribbean Workout		Breathless Hogs	Access Hollywood
5:00	Sesame Street (E)		Headline News	(1:31) General Hospital	Larry King Live		Body Shaping	(1:31) General Hospital
5:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	PrimeTime Thursday	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	Inside the NBA	The View	Teacher's Pet (E)
6:00	Blue's Clues (E)		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emiri Live	What's New Scooby-Doo?
7:00	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	Jeopardy!	The O'Reilly Factor		El Niño Live	The Brothers Garcia
7:30	Bob the Builder		Headline News	King of the Hill "Dale Gribble"	PrimeTime Thursday		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
8:00	The Wiggles		Headline News	The Apprentice	The O'Reilly Factor		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
8:30	Ursa the Explorer		Headline News	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (I)	Good Morning America		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
9:00	Stanley	Movie *** "What Makes a Family" (2001) Brooke Shields. A suburban life has late love's parents for child custody.	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Headline News	Sports	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat		(3:46) Oprah Winfrey	Headline News	Nightly Business Report		Easy Entertaining-Chiaro	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (E)		(23:46) Guiding Light	Headline News	Herbal With Chris Matthews		Scoring Cents	Headline News
10:30	Between the Lions (E)		(3:51) Guiding Light	Headline News	King of the Hill "Dale Gribble"		The Look for Less	Headline News
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:46) Movie *** "Maverick" (1994) Mel Gibson. A con using cardsharp heads for a high-stakes poker game.	(17:21) General Hospital	Headline News	PrimeTime Thursday		El Niño Live	King of the Hill "Dale Gribble"
11:30	Stanley		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	PrimeTime Thursday		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
12:00	Ursa the Explorer		Headline News	Jeopardy!	The O'Reilly Factor		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
12:30	The Wiggles		Headline News	King of the Hill "Dale Gribble"	PrimeTime Thursday		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
13:00	Bob the Builder		Headline News	Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (I)	Good Morning America		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
13:30	Dragon Tales (E)		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Good Morning America		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
14:00	Blue's Clues (E)		Headline News	Jeopardy!	Headline News		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
14:30	Barney & Friends (E)		Headline News	King of the Hill "Dale Gribble"	Headline News		El Niño Live	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"
15:00	Funtastic Home Videos	(1:16) Movie *** "Roxanne" (1987) Steve Martin. A modern cynic helps a shy body with a lovely astronomer.	Teacher's Pet (E)	Headline News	Channel One		Any Day Now "Lighten Up, Rene"	Late Show
15:30	Full House		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	The Early Show Food presentation.		ER "A River in Egypt"	Access Hollywood
16:00	Pokémon "A Claim to Fame"		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Law & Order "Under the Influence"	The Late Late Show
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2)		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		The Simpsons	
17:00	AAahh! Real Monsters		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Survivor: Vanuatu, Islands of Fire (I)	Countdown With Keith Olbermann
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Boston Public "Chapter Thirty-Six"	Entertainment Studios.com
18:30	Rugrats		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
19:00	Chickadee Island adventure.		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
19:30	The Westlanders (E)		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
20:00	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
20:30	Drake & Josh "Dune Buggy"		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
21:00	Lizzie McGuire		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
22:00	Switched "Ally & Ida"		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
22:30	Radio Free Roscoe		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
23:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.
23:30	Home Improvement		Headline News	That's So Raven "Magic Bus"	Headline News		Blind Date	Today Today Throws a Destination Wedding conclusion.

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FACES

Hanks considers 'Da Vinci Code' movie

Will Tom Hanks crack "The Da Vinci Code"? Director Ron Howard and producer Brian Grazer, the team behind "A Beautiful Mind," said in *Newsweek* that they wanted the "Saving Private Ryan" star because of the cerebral nature of Dan Brown's best-selling novel.

"Tom is an exciting actor to watch thinking," Howard told *Newsweek*. "We probably don't need his status from a box-office standpoint, but he gives Langdon instant legitimacy."

Hanks would play Robert Langdon, a Harvard symbologist who is in a life-or-death race with a secret society to uncover the secrets of the Holy Grail hidden in the works of Leonardo Da Vinci.

The actor's representatives said he is in negotiations to play the part, but has not yet been locked in.



Hanks

Golfer wants out of the spotlight

Tiger Woods wants out of the tabloids like he wants out of a sand trap.

The golfer was caught off guard by the coverage of his wedding to Swedish model Elin Nordegren — a lavish sunset ceremony in Barbados.

"It's wild. I'm a golfer, I'm not a person in Hollywood," Woods told Associated Press Television in a recent interview in Los Angeles. "I'm not a person who is all over the tabloids.... For some reason, it made news."

Woods, notoriously private, would like to keep it that way.

"We just wanted to have it private so it's just friends and family that are closest to us," he added. "For the media to try and get in there, I thought was invasive. There's no doubt about it."

Woods' precautions appeared to include hiring the elite helicopter charter company on the island, which said it was booked solid — a move that prevented journalists and photographers from flying over the event.

He also rented out the entire hotel, which has about 200 rooms ranging in price from \$700 to \$8,000 a night, according to the hotel's Web site.

Beckham not interested in Hollywood

David Beckham said he turned down a "good part" in a Hollywood movie.

"I've never said that I wanted to go into movies. I've been offered a couple of things like 'The Pink Panther,' but my football comes first," said the Real Madrid midfielder, referring to a role in a remake of the Peter Sellers classic.

"The Pink Panther," which is to be released next summer, will star Steve Martin as Inspector Clouseau, and Beyoncé Knowles. It is to be set around the murder of a soccer coach, according to the movie's Web site.

Beckham denied reports that he might retire from international soccer after the next World Cup finals.

Beckham has never acted in a film, but was the muse to the 2002 movie "Bend it like Beckham."



Beckham

Actor sues clothing company

Actor Peter Fonda has sued a clothing company for more than \$123,000, saying Dragonfly Clothing Inc. violated a licensing agreement that allows it to market apparel bearing his image.

The Fullerton-based Dragonfly was to pay Fonda guaranteed minimum royalties of \$20,000 on Sept. 10 but failed to do so, according to an amendment agreement attached to the lawsuit. The suit was filed in Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Dragonfly has also refused to make remaining payments under the amendment to the licensing agreement, the suit alleges. The company still owes Fonda royalty payments of \$15,000 on Dec. 10; \$15,000 on March 10 and other payments of \$10,000 each, according to the amendment.

Dragonfly markets clothing bearing the logos or likenesses of a number of famous personalities, including Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix, Elvis Presley, James Dean and others.

Stories and photos from wire services

Ryan Cabrera: More than just a boy toy

Introduced to the world through Ashlee Simpson, this young rocker debuts his first album

BY REBECCA MILLER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ryan Cabrera may be better known as Ashlee Simpson's ex-boyfriend, but now he's making a name for himself.

His major label debut album, "Take It All Away," has sold more than 320,000 copies so far, and its first single, "On the Way Down," hit No. 8 on the Billboard chart. After opening for Jewel and Jessica Simpson and performing on college campuses, Cabrera just kicked off his first headlining tour.

But it was hard work — not connections — that brought the 22-year-old singer this far.

He first picked up a guitar at age 15 and spent the next few years teaching himself to play chords and simple tunes.

He formed a band with some buddies — Cabrera got roped into singing — and played gigs around the Dallas area for a few years. He went to college but dropped out after a year to devote himself to music, knowing his voice needed work.

His coach turned out to be Jessica Simpson's instructor, and she recommended to Simpson's manager-father that he check out Cabrera.

After signing with Joe Simpson, Cabrera landed a recording contract and went to Los Angeles, where he lived with the Simpsons for eight months. And then...

AP: I have to ask about your relationship with Ashlee Simpson.

Cabrera: We were best buds. It became like a brother-sister relationship. We were dating other people when I moved in, but that didn't work out. Then we got together during my video, and then after that, it was ON.

AP: And now?

Cabrera: Just like we were before — we're best friends. It sucks because we're both doing so many things right now that it's impossible to be together right now. We'll see what happens in the future.

AP: Was it weird watching your relationship on her reality TV show and knowing other people were, too?

Cabrera: The only weird part is how they show it. I'm used to being around cameras because of ("Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica").

What's weird is when they edit it and try to put a month's relationship into one show.

AP: Did her show help your career?

Cabrera: Sure. Whenever people get to see you, it's a

great thing. Once people see an image and see the character, they can get into the music a lot more.

AP: How did you get into singing? Was it something you always wanted to do?

Cabrera: Absolutely not. The guys in my band said "There's three of us and one of you, so you're singing." I was horrible; I was absolutely awful. That's why I put myself through that insane program.

AP: What did it entail?

Cabrera: I sang every day by myself for six hours. I was holding up chairs while singing scales to work out my diaphragm. I heard Michael Jackson did it, but everybody said not to, it's not good for your voice.

AP: A lot of your songs deal with breaking up or thanking a girl for her love. Did you draw on personal experiences?

Cabrera: I would say so. I went through losing my first love while I was writing the album. I also wrote a song about the new girl in my life. "On the Way Down" is about searching for happiness in things that weren't real, searching for happiness in material possessions. For me, it's a spiritual song. But I left song open to interpretation. It could be about a girl, or it could be about a pet parakeet.

AP: How did you guys get into "Rock, Vote & Win"?

Cabrera: I wanted to be involved with Rock the Vote, but Joe suggested we do our own thing. Then we got Clear Channel on board and came up with the idea. I wanted to get involved with something. I didn't care exactly what. "Rock, Vote & Win" is really educational, and it's fun for schools. We're not trying to tell them who to vote for, we're just telling them to vote.

AP: Did you vote in the last presidential election?

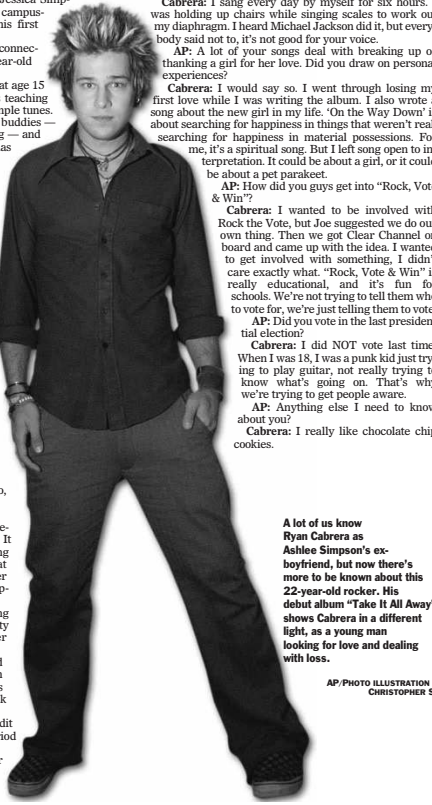
Cabrera: I did NOT vote last time. When I was 18, I was a punk kid just trying to play guitar, not really trying to know what's going on. That's why we're trying to get people aware.

AP: Anything else I need to know about you?

Cabrera: I really like chocolate chip cookies.

A lot of us know Ryan Cabrera as Ashlee Simpson's ex-boyfriend, but now there's more to be known about this 22-year-old rocker. His debut album "Take It All Away" shows Cabrera in a different light, as a young man looking for love and dealing with loss.

AP PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER SIK



OPINION

Democrats can rejuvenate party from within

It is sometimes said that one of Margaret Thatcher's greatest achievements is the modern Labor Party. That is to say, her political success was so devastating to Britain's socialists

that they had no choice but to throw socialism overboard to win elections.

Something comparable might happen to the Democrats, but I wouldn't bank on it. Two weeks afterward, the shock of George W. Bush's re-election has hardly worn off, and the three "c's" — reassessment, recrimination and renewal — are getting under way again. The Democrats are becoming expert at post-defeat post-mortems: They remind me of Sylvia Plath's Lady Lazarus, who explains that "Dying is an art, like everything else. I do it exceptionally well."

Are the Democrats dying? The quick answer is no. John Kerry, for all his liabilities as a candidate, won 48 percent of the popular vote, a higher percentage than Bill Clinton, and 10 million more votes than Clinton received in 1992. The Democrats remain a viable minority in Congress, and roughly held their own among governorships and state legislatures. The same percentage of voters who identify themselves to pollsters as Republicans call themselves Democrats.

But in politics, modest differences in voter allegiance amount to vast divergences in power. Since 1968, the White House has been in GOP hands for 24 of the past 36 years. No Democrat from outside the South has been elected president since John F. Kennedy — who, lest we forget, squeaked by Richard Nixon in dubious circumstances. A one-vote majority in Congress (remember Jim Jeffords?) is all it

takes to control the machinery of the legislative branch.

The next three or four justices of the Supreme Court are likely to be nominated by Bush.

This does not mean that the Democrats are "a national party no longer," as Zell Miller puts it, but prospects are bleak. In the long term, it is now possible to see that the Democratic Party has been in a historic decline since Lyndon Johnson's defeat of Barry Goldwater in 1964. Between 1930 and 1994, Democrats controlled Congress for 66 years, and by huge majorities. In much of the second third of the 20th century, the Roosevelt coalition of urban and rural residents, minorities and blue-collar workers let the Democrats dominate the statehouses, the South, Congress and the White House. No longer.

"The Solid South," which once meant the solidly Democratic South, is now solidly Republican, and Ronald Reagan broke the allegiance of blue-collar voters to Democrats. The GOP has controlled both houses of Congress since 1994, with the exception of 2001 to early 2003, when Jeffords' shift from Republican to independent let Democrats briefly take over the Senate.

Further, Bush is the first Republican president since William McKinley, in 1900, to win re-election and retain control of Congress.

Even Hispanics seem to be slipping from the Democrats' grasp: Bush won 44 percent of their votes this year, a big increase from 2000, and the next Republican presidential candidate could gain a majority of Hispanic voters in 2008.

I cite these figures not to rub it in, but to emphasize the Democrats' challenge: Either they examine themselves very carefully in the mirror, and make adjustments, or the differences between the two parties will grow more unbalanced.

Democrats have been so accustomed to their (former) status as the natural party of government that they have failed to



grasp the meaning of their decline. In their view, Republicans never win elections by legitimate means, but only through fraud, deception or appeals to bigotry.

Reagan, they assert, was an amiable B-movie actor who hypnotized the electorate. George H.W. Bush, they say, catapulted to power on the shoulders of Willie Horton. The incumbent President Bush, they complain, was "selected" by a bare majority of the Supreme Court and has ridden to victory this year with lies and shameless appeals to chauvinism and religious zealotry.

As long as Democrats console themselves in such terms, things can only get worse. They need to recognize that most voters who cast Republican ballots are not stupid, or misguided, or malevolent, but citizens assessing their own, and the nation's, interests and making informed

choices.

Since the late 1960s, Democrats have been in thrall to special interests (teacher unions, trial lawyers, affirmative action) and uncomfortable with the use of force in defense of national interest and religious faith as an expression of ethical values. John Edwards notwithstanding, they are not the party of the Little Guy, but the Guys and Gals who look with horror on the Little Guy's beliefs about marriage, patriotism or abortion. While Republicans embraced Middle America, the Democrats became the party of economic envy, the Hollywood Left, the media elite and increasingly isolated tribes of urban/suburban dwellers who disdain Flyover America.

Comfortably arrogant, perhaps, and doomed to minority status.

Philip Terzian, The Providence (R.I.) Journal's associate editor, writes a column from Washington.

Timing of Cabinet change allows for smooth swaps

BY DALE MCFEATERS

Scraps Howard

President Bush had a remarkably stable Cabinet in his first term, which makes the announced departure of six Cabinet secretaries, with hints of more to come, all the more dramatic.

Two departures during his first term were less than happy: Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill was fired and Christine Todd Whitman, the Cabinet-level head of the Environmental Protection Agency, left under chilly circumstances.

Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martinez left for a successful Senate run in Florida, and White House budget director Mitch Daniels left for a successful run for Indiana governor.

And that was pretty much it. Then, in short order after the election, the attorney general and the secretaries of state, energy, education, agriculture and commerce all announced they were leaving. That's six of the 15 in the Cabinet.

(Presidents also get to designate certain officials — the trade rep, for example — as Cabinet-level.) But traditionally a president elected to a second term sees about three-fourths of his Cabinet turn over. President Bill Clinton was a nice example of Cabinet stability; five of his were with him the full eight years.

Although there might have been a gentle push here and there, Bush's Cabinet turnover seems generally amicable. Top administration officials leave for a variety of good reasons — burnout, health, more time with the family, an opportunity to make much more money in the private sector, to seek another office.

A civilized parting of the ways may serve Bush well now on the day after President Nixon was re-elected in a landslide, he peremptorily demanded the res-

ignations of every member of his Cabinet and all of his staff. Nixon, in rationalizing what he later admitted was a bad mistake, said he wouldn't have accepted most of them, but he wanted a dramatic way to symbolize a new beginning. But his appointees saw it as a stunning act of arrogant ingratitude. He had alienated many people he would need later on.

The new resignations come at a propitious time for the White House.

Official Washington is in a kind of full

right now. The lame-duck Congress will finish up only its most pressing business and the new Congress doesn't take its seats until January.

That gives the White House time to line up replacements and get the time-consuming chores of background checks and financial disclosures out of the way. That way the Senate, when it returns, will have no excuse for dawdling on confirmation of his nominees.

This may be a wholesale turnover, but it is shaping up as an exceptionally orderly one.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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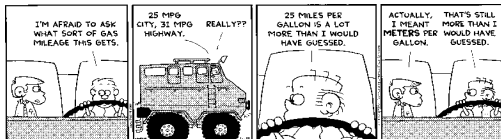
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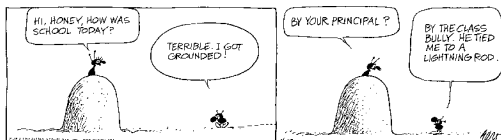


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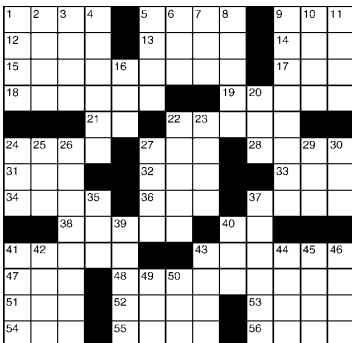
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Penicillin source
- 5 Send forth
- 9 Glutton
- 13 Cheney predecessor
- 14 Brewed beverage
- 15 Kansas symbol
- 17 Writer Fleming
- 18 Analyzes ore
- 19 Figure out who-done-it
- 21 Yours truly
- 22 Watt's power
- 24 Otherwise
- 27 "Humbly"
- 28 Mexican entree
- 31 Swamp
- 32 Had 28-Across
- 33 Diamond score
- 34 Implement
- 36 "See ya!"
- 37 Computer info unit
- 38 Silicon silver
- 40 On the other hand
- 41 Forbidden
- 43 7th rock from the sun?
- 47 Time period
- 48 Sellout extension
- 51 Zlich
- 52 Jamaican citrus
- 53 Bamako's country
- 54 Bando of baseball
- 55 Thaw
- 56 Pronto, on "Er"

Down

- 1 Small plateau
- 2 Comic penguin
- 3 Photo's choice
- 4 Slander
- 5 Hollywood clasher
- 6 Take blades to blades
- 7 Anger
- 8 Laconic
- 9 Long forward pass
- 10 Scandinavian name
- 11 Splicer's material
- 12 Caustic solution
- 20 Bran provider
- 22 Attendant of Dionysus
- 23 Quaker's address
- 24 Salamander
- 25 MGM mascot
- 26 Grow exponentially
- 27 Innocent one
- 29 Slash
- 30 Indivisible
- 35 7-faced doctor of film
- 37 Lullaby penner
- 39 Public meeting place
- 40 Mythical monster
- 41 Cash-drawer section
- 42 Met melody
- 43 Condominium, e.g.
- 44 "Cool!"
- 45 Bruins' home
- 46 Revue piece
- 49 Census datum
- 50 Misfortune

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-18

CRYPTOQUIP

F O R T S H V Y I C F O H
F R M M Y T H O U I C V R K O U O R W X
Y M J X Y J K X . O L X F S X O T L

H Q O U F O W Q X N H T Q Y N W
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A PARASITE HAD STRANGE, ARGUABLE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, I RECKON IT'D BE A HERETICK.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals T

Young women: No hurry to date

Dear Abby: My 16-year-old daughter went through exactly what the 16-year-old girl, "Not Interested in North Carolina," is experiencing.

I encouraged my daughter to make a list of all the things she wanted to accomplish in the future, and tell me if having a boyfriend would help. After she read what she had written, she came to the conclusion that dating was out for now, and she's fine with it. Now, when she feels peer pressure at school, she looks at her list — which includes being a wonderful daughter, going to the college of her choice and traveling to certain foreign countries.

"Not Interested" should tape a similar list to her mirror or on the back of a door for easy reference.

— Encouraging Mom, Midland, Texas

Dear Mom: After "Not Interested's" letter was printed, I was

deluged with letters and e-mail from readers offering support.

The number was overwhelming — too many to count.

Read on:

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I hope that girl doesn't succumb to peer pressure. It's far more important to know who you are than to have a boyfriend. Having healthy relationships should be her focus, not fitting into what "society" tells her to do.

I am 24 and engaged to be married next summer. By waiting until I was ready, I knew exactly what kind of relationship I wanted and have found a wonderful man who shares my values.

— Happy I waited in Ohio
Dear Happy: I agree, it takes courage not to follow the crowd. Not one of those who wrote to support "Not Interested" was

sorry to have postponed dating.

Dear Abby: I was that girl, a "hard-core tomboy," which by the way, does not necessarily mean you're gay. (There are many very feminine lesbians.) I married at 22 and have been married for 21 years. After I had children, I realized that I am a lesbian — and I have recently come out to my husband, family and friends.

My advice to "Not Interested" is to take her time dating boys, have fun with her sports, etc., and remember — it's OK if she is gay. If she's struggling, she should seek a gay support group for teens.

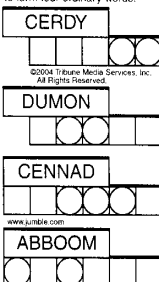
— Loving Mom, Springfield, Mass.

Dear Loving Mom: That's good advice for teens who may need it.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer: CERDY TO DUMON

Yesterday's Jumble: GROIN BILGE FAUCY NOZZLE
How she finished the laundry when the dryer broke — BY GOING ON LINE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argrison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Teen needs trip to gynecologist

Dear Annie: I am 17 years old and recently active. I use protection 100 percent of the time.

Annie, I think something is wrong "down there." Actually, I think it might be tinea cruris, which I know is athlete's foot spread through self-contact. Tinea cruris is supposedly easy to treat through over-the-counter topical medications.

I know I should see a gynecologist about this, but I don't want my parents to know I've lost my virginity. I can't think of another reason to ask my mom to take me to a gynecologist.

— Harrisburg, Pa.

Dear Harrisburg, Pa.: Tinea cruris is a fungal infection like jock itch, but you could get it "down there" by wearing too-tight clothing, not washing after exercise or not drying your body sufficiently after showering. And it gives you the perfect excuse to ask your mother to take you to the gynecologist. Tell her you have some

Annie's Mailbox



kind of itching and you think it's time for a gynecologist to check you out. When you get to the doctor's office, ask your mom to wait outside for you, which will allow you to speak to the doctor privately.

We hope this will provide an opportunity for you to open up the lines of communication with at least one of your parents. While initially they may be disappointed to learn that you are sexually active, they will get past it.

Dear Annie: I find myself in what I would classify as a friendship with a co-worker. Actually, I am her assistant. "Myra" calls me at all hours of the day, including weekends and evenings. We discuss everything — her children's problems, her family and her fiancé.

Myra and her fiancé just finalized their list for their wedding attendees, and I find it a little depressing that, while I am good

enough to be a sounding board, apparently, I'm not good enough to be a bridesmaid. In fact, her attendants are mostly women who dislike the groom and have been quite vocal about it.

Myra has given me other duties at the wedding, but they are more like working assignments and don't involve any fun or interaction with the bridal party. Is it possible that what I assumed was a friendship is actually an extension of my job description?

— Feeling Down About Myself
Dear Feeling Down: Myra sees she expects you to listen to her complaints, provide support and advice, and take whatever assignments are given to you. Is this friendship? No. Although Myra no doubt appreciates the help you offer, it is not the same as a true friendship. Don't take it too hard, though. She probably thinks you're a terrific assistant.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o The Hearst Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



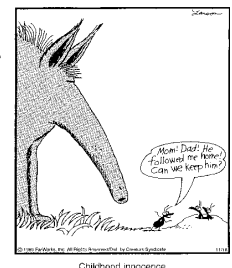
"I can't watch it now. I'm in bed, sound asleep."



Dennis the Menace



The Far Side



Non Sequitur



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SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 7 a.m.—NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week (10:00).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Sports: Jamaica at U.S. men's World Open qualifier (10:00).
AFN-Sports, 11:00 a.m.—Tennis: Masters Cup (Harrison, Day 3).
AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.—Motor racing: NASCAR Trucks (Darlington, Day 1).
AFN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.—Rodeo: Pro Bull Riding World Finals (Day 1).
AFN-Sports, 8:30 p.m.—Golf: World Golf Championships World Cup, 1st round (Golf).

Friday

AFN-Sports, 11:15 a.m.—NBA: San Antonio at Philadelphia.
AFN-Atlantic, 1:00 a.m.—College football: Miami at Virginia Tech.
AFN-Radio, 1:30 a.m.—College football: Miami at Virginia Tech.
AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m.—NBA: New York at Houston.
AFN-Sports, 7 a.m.—NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week (10:00).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Sports: Memphis vs. Coach's vs. Coach's (Mississippi, St. vs. Syracuse).
AFN-Sports, 11:00 a.m.—Golf: World Golf Championships World Cup, 2nd round (Golf).

Saturday

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Cincinnati vs. Cincinnati.
AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—NFL: Indiana at Detroit.
AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m.—College basketball: Cincinnati vs. Cincinnati.
AFN-Pacific, 3 a.m.—NBA: L.A. Lakers at Sacramento.
AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Memphis at Sacramento.
AFN-Sports, 7 a.m.—NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week (10:00).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Sports: Memphis vs. Coach's vs. Coach's (Mississippi, St. vs. Syracuse).
AFN-Sports, 11:00 a.m.—Golf: World Golf Championships World Cup, 2nd round (Golf).

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Buffalo	3	6	0	.333	143	166			
Miami	1	8	0	.111	123	186			
	South								
Indianapolis	6	3	0	.667	298	223			
Jacksonville	6	3	0	.667	151	160			

National Conference

	North					
Pittsburgh	8	1	0	.889	221	147
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667	174	130
Cincinnati	4	5	0	.444	169	179
Cleveland	3	6	0	.333	170	198
	West					
Denver	6	3	0	.667	199	154
San Diego	6	3	0	.667	262	173
Kansas City	3	6	0	.333	257	238
Oakland	3	6	0	.333	165	247
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
	East					

Sunday's games

N.Y. Giants	5	4	0	.556	186	158
Dallas	3	6	0	.333	162	252
Washington	3	6	0	.333	125	150
South						
Atlanta	7	2	0	.778	194	184
New Orleans	4	5	0	.444	198	254
Tampa Bay	3	6	0	.333	157	179
Carolina	2	7	0	.222	161	212
North						
Green Bay	5	4	0	.556	240	217
Minnesota	5	4	0	.556	242	227
Chicago	4	5	0	.444	155	159
Detroit	4	5	0	.444	159	194

Expos make splash in free-agent market

Washington-bound team signs SS Guzman, 3B Castilla

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For a team without a budget, the Expos made a big early splash in their free agency.

In their first major moves since announcing their relocation to Washington, the Expos on Tuesday agreed to terms with third baseman Vinny Castilla and shortstop Cristian Guzman.

Castilla will receive a \$6.2 million, two-year contract, while Guzman gets a \$16.8 million, four-year deal. Jim Bowden, hired as general manager on Nov. 2 to replace Omar Minaya, made the moves even though he hasn't been told how much money he can spend by the commissioner's office, which is operating the team until it is sold.

"We do not have a budget, but we're trying to send this franchise in the right direction," Bowden said. "We couldn't wait to make these moves. We wanted to make sure we had a shortstop with his prime years ahead of him... If you have to cut in other areas, you cut in other areas. We feel those two players will fit into our budget."

Castilla, 37, hit .271 with 35 homers and an NL-leading 131 RBIs last season for Colorado, the best season for the two-time All-Star since he was with the Rockies in the 1990s. Castilla also has played for Atlanta, Houston and Tampa Bay, and has 303 career home runs.

Guzman, a 26-year-old switch-hitter, batted .274 for Minnesota last season with eight homers, 46 RBIs and 10 steals, and he led AL shortstops with a .983 fielding percentage.

"The nice thing about this is that two big holes on the left side of the infield are filled," manager Frank Robinson said. "It was nice to go out and fill those holes in a short period of time with quality players."

Castilla will receive \$3 million in 2005 and \$3.2 million in 2006. His agent, Eric Goldschmidt, said Castilla wanted to stay in the National League and avoid the top-heavy Central Division.

Goldschmidt also was impressed with Bowden's plans to turn the Expos around quickly.

"I know Jim is an aggressive guy," Goldschmidt said. "And I know he'll improve the club greatly."

Castilla's signing signals that the Expos

have given up on keeping their sole marquee free agent, third baseman Tony Batista, who hit 32 home runs with 110 RBIs last season.

"They made an offer to us that was not in our ballpark in length or in dollars," Bowden said.

Bowden got a similar response when pursuing Corey Koskie, Guzman's teammate with the Twins, so he worked the deal with Castilla, who declined a \$2.1 million mutual option with Colorado.

Castilla's signing also met with approval from Robinson, who wanted some veteran leadership for a young roster.

"That's very important for me," Robinson said. "You have to have a presence in the clubhouse. It just can't be management and the coaches."

The Twins declined a \$5.25 million option on Guzman's contract for 2005.

Baseball owners announced the Expos' move on Sept. 29 and are set to approve the relocation Thursday. The deal is subject to the District of Columbia government enacting funding by Dec. 31 for a new ballpark.

The Expos are owned by the other 29 teams, although baseball recently began the process of selling the team. The fran-



The Expos signed shortstop Cristian Guzman to a four-year, \$16.8 million contract Tuesday. The team plans to relocate to Washington, D.C., during the offseason.

chise is also expected to be renamed by the commissioner's office before the end of the year.

AP Sports Writer Ronald Blum in New York contributed to this report.

Sheffield says he was target of extortion plot

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — New York Yankees star Gary Sheffield and his wife are the targets of a blackmailing who claimed to have embarrassing sexual videotapes of her and a musician, the slugger said Tuesday.

"I will not be blackmailed. I will not have my family dragged through the mud and filth," Sheffield said in a statement read by his Chicago-based business agent, Rufus Williams.

The Yankees outfielder said his wife, DeLeon, said a long-term relationship with a well-known professional singer over 10 years ago.

Sheffield said he had known about the relationship, which came before the couple married.

"I have not seen the alleged videotape, nor do I care to," Sheffield said in his statement. "I love my wife and I vow again to stand by her through any trial or tribulation."

Sheffield said he hoped "the FBI and the federal authorities will prosecute this man to the full extent of the law."

Derrick Mosley, 38, a Chicago man who describes himself as a minister and has fashioned himself as a community activist, was charged Monday with operating a scheme to defraud for allegedly attempting to extort money from a professional athlete, who was not named.

Mosley was already on probation for bank fraud and remained in custody Tuesday pending a Thursday bond hearing.

His attorney, Luis Galvan, had no immediate comment after his arrest.

Briefs

Free-agent catcher Varitek seeking no-trade clause

BOSTON — If the Boston Red Sox want to keep Jason Varitek, they might have to give him a no-trade clause.

"We have discussed multiple times how important that being able to stay in one place is," the free-agent catcher said Tuesday.

"This is your only shot to be able to do that."

After helping the Red Sox win the World Series last month, Varitek plans to meet with the team again this week. He reportedly has asked for a \$55 million, five-year contract with a no-trade clause. He has two daughters, ages 3 and 4, and stressed that he wants a deal that will provide stability for his family.

Varitek, who batted .296 with 18 homers and 73 RBIs last season, is considered the best of a mediocre crop of free-agent catchers.

Phillies sign RHP Lidle to \$6.3M, two-year deal

PHILADELPHIA — Right-hander Cory Lidle returned to the Philadelphia Phillies, agreeing Tuesday to a \$6.3 million, two-year contract.

The 32-year-old Lidle was 5-2 with a 3.90 ERA in 10 starts with the Phillies after he was acquired from Cincinnati in August. He finished 12-12 overall with a 4.90 ERA. Lidle will earn \$3 million in 2005 and \$3.3 million in 2006, plus performance bonuses.

Martinez meets with Steinbrenner

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pedro Martinez viewed the enemy Tuesday, meeting with Yankees owner George Steinbrenner at New York's spring training complex in Tampa, Fla.

Taking aim at the World Series champion Boston Red Sox, Steinbrenner talked at Legends Field with the free-agent right-hander.

Martinez was accompanied by agents Fernando Cuza and Pat Rooney.

New York vice presidents Mark Newman, Billy Connors and Damon Oppenheimer also attended.

"We had a good meeting," Steinbrenner said in a statement, without elaborating.

Said Cuza: "I think it's the same way. It was good."

Boston general manager Theo Epstein did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment. The Red Sox reportedly made a recent two-year offer to the ace.



Pedro Martinez

Yankees catcher Jorge Posada, who got into a shouting match with Martinez during the 2003 playoffs, said last week he would be happy to see him in pinstripes.

"I don't have anything against Pedro if he's my teammate. The guy is a winner. He knows how to pitch," Posada said.

In September, Martinez called the Yankees his "daddy" because of their success against him, sparking chants of "Who's your daddy?" when he pitched in New

York during this year's AL championship series.

Martinez was acquired by the Red Sox before the 1998 season and has gone 117-37 for Boston, winning the AL Cy Young Award in 1999 and 2000. After beating St. Louis in Game 3 of the World Series, he acknowledged it could have been his final appearance for Boston.

"If it is, I just want the fans and everybody to understand that I did whatever possible to represent the city well, the team and that my heart will always be with them," he said. "It's been a great ride. I hope everybody enjoyed it as much as I did. Even with the struggles that I've had up and down during the season, I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed every moment. I enjoyed my career in Boston."

Switching sides in the rivalry would not be unprecedented. After going 2-0 for the Yankees in the 1977 World Series, Mike Torrez went to the Red Sox — and gave up Bucky Dent's homer in the tiebreaking playoff for the 1978 AL East title.

Anaheim questions MLB on name change

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — City officials sent letters to the Anaheim Angels and Major League Baseball on Tuesday asking whether a possible name change has already been provisionally approved.

The letter from the City Council also seeks assurances from the team and league that the name will not be changed, and comes after the council again threatened to sue if the team changes its name from the Anaheim Angels to the Los Angeles Angels.

A name change would break the terms of the team's 33-year lease with the city, according to city officials.

"A deal is a deal. We continue to be strongly united on insisting that the Anaheim Angels comply with the terms of the lease," Mayor Curt Pringle said in a statement. "We hope that the Angels or Major League Baseball will end this speculative inquiry about the name change immediately."

The franchise began play as the Los Angeles Angels in 1961. It be-

came the California Angels upon moving to Anaheim in 1966, and has been the Anaheim Angels since 1997.

The possibility of a name change was first reported in July. Earlier this month, the Los Angeles Times quoted an unidentified high-ranking baseball official as saying Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig had given permission to Angels owner Arte Moreno to rename the team.

The Angels drew 3,375,671 last season — third-highest total in baseball behind the Yankees and Dodgers.

Roddick uses different strokes to beat Henman

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Andy Roddick didn't get to use his favorite weapons and tactics. It didn't matter.

Roddick, waited during a rain delay, then got key shots from his backhand and charged the net to hold off Tim Henman for a 7-5, 7-6 (6) victory Tuesday night in the first round of the ATP Masters Cup championship.

Roddick had one serve hit 142 mph, but he didn't win this one with his trademark blasts.

"Go figure," Roddick said. "I didn't feel I served that well, I didn't feel I hit my forehand that well but I moved and volleyed great so it was an atypical match for me."

The match started more than two hours late because of steady rain. After finally taking the court, both players battled on serve in the first set until Roddick finally broke Henman in the 12th game with a backhand winner down the line.

"If I had to choose, I wanted Andy to beat me with his backhand so you have to give him credit, he came up with the big point," Henman said.

Roddick also charged the net more than usual, and Henman also gave him credit for that.

"He knows I want to establish myself at the net and it's harder for me to do that if he's already at the net," Henman said.

Roddick had to fight off two break points in the 11th game. He escaped the second break point with a service winner, then held serve on Henman's forehand error.

The second set was just as tight, going down to the tiebreaker, when Henman took a 5-2 lead before Roddick rallied. He took a 6-5 lead after chasing down Henman's shot to the corner and hammering home a passing shot.

Henman saved the first match point with a return of serve winner, but his forehand error on the second match point ended it.

"I battled and won the big points, so I can take a lot of positives out of this," Roddick said.



Andy Roddick, above, did not hammer many of his trademark hard serves in defeating Tim Henman 7-5, 7-6 (6) Tuesday in the ATP Masters Cup. The American used an array of passing shots and charged the net more than he normally does.

In earlier matches, third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt came back from a first-set bid to beat Carlos Moya 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4 and Marat Safin needed just one hour to beat Guillermo Coria 6-1, 6-4. Coria played his first match in more than three months after surgery on his right shoulder.

Davenport finishes season ranked No. 1

LOS ANGELES — Lindsay Davenport finished No. 1 in the world for the third time in the final WTA rankings of 2004.

Davenport won a WTA Tour-leading seven titles and had a 22-match winning streak during the summer hardcourt season. She also won No. 1 in 1998 and 2001.

She led second-ranked Amelie Mauresmo by 214 points. Mauresmo could have surpassed Davenport if the Frenchwoman had won the season-ending WTA Championships, but she lost in the semifinals.

Responding to Claret, Geiger, Tressel defend OSU's football program

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger and coach Jim Tressel defended the school's football program Tuesday against charges that players were paid by boosters and coddled academically.

Geiger had harsh words for former tailback Maurice Clarett and

for ESPN, which he said has led an attack against the school by providing a forum for Clarett's allegations.

APCAAA investigator was on campus Monday to look into accusations that Tressel helped Clarett get a loaner car and that he and other players were paid for bogus summer jobs and received improper help in class.

"I'm not concerned at all," Geiger said of the investigation. "I think Jim runs an honest program and tells me the truth."

Clarett, who made the charges on ESPN last week, led Ohio State to the national championship in 2002. Under the current circumstances, Geiger said, it did not believe Ohio State's title might be lost.

"Unless and until there would be found an institutional violation, I don't think it's in jeopardy," Geiger said.

Mark Shapiro, executive vice president of programming and production at ESPN, said Geiger's attacks on the network "are blatantly misguided."

Clarett was suspended after his freshman season for lying to investigators during another NCAA probe of allegations that he received improper benefits from a family friend. He then lost a court challenge of the NFL's rule preventing players out of high school less than three years from being drafted.

Family members say Clarett is working out with a trainer at an undisclosed location in preparation for the NFL Draft.

Alan Milstein, Clarett's lawyer in the antitrust suit against the NFL, declined comment Tuesday. Clarett's mother did not return a message seeking comment.

Stoops links ESPN to 'agendas' among poll voters

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops said Tuesday that college football poll voters should be aware that ESPN has a contract with the Southeastern Conference when they consider the cable sports network's analysis that Auburn should be the nation's No. 2 team.

Stoops mentioned ESPN's contract with the SEC during his weekly news conference, but stopped short of accusing the network of bias.

"I'm not saying that," Stoops said. "I'm saying I'm aware of what their contracts are with. Whether people are directed in

certain ways, I'm not going to say that. I think all the people ought to be aware who their contracts are with and what some of their agendas may be."

Stoops would not say whether he thought ESPN altered its analysis to favor SEC teams.

"That would be for everyone else to comment on, not me. I don't think that's appropriate," Stoops said. "I just understand TV and what happens with programs. Ratings matter. I don't know what to say about it."

Auburn, which had trailed Oklahoma in the AP media poll this season, moved even with the Sooners this week following a 24-6 win over Georgia, which had been No. 8. Oklahoma beat unranked Nebraska 30-3.

Oklahoma remained No. 2 in the coaches poll, although its lead was cut to two points over Auburn.

East Carolina's coach resigns

RALEIGH, N.C. — East Carolina football coach John Thompson resigned Wednesday but will finish the season, ending his first stint as a head coach after only two seasons.

Thompson is replacing Steve Logan, Thompson's 3-18.

The Pirates (2-7, 2-5 Conference USA) play Memphis on Saturday, and N.C. State on Nov. 27.

New Mexico coach gets extension through 2009

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — New Mexico signed coach Rocky Long to a contract extension through 2009 on Tuesday.

While details of the contract are still being worked out, Long is getting a pay raise of about \$100,000 a year in an annual salary package totaling \$425,000. Long's base salary, which is currently \$175,790, will increase to \$190,000.

New Mexico (6-4), second in the Mountain West Conference, hosts Wyoming in its regular-season finale Saturday. A victory would ensure New Mexico of a third straight bowl bid for the first time in school history.

Three finalists unveiled for national best WR award

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Two Big Ten receivers, Michigan's Braylon Edwards and Purdue's Taylor Stubblefield, and Ball State's Dante Ridgeway are finalists for the Biletnikoff Award, given to college football's best receiver.

Edwards, a senior, has 76 catches for 1,049 yards and 11 touchdowns going into the seventh-ranked Wolverines game Saturday at Ohio State.

Stubblefield, also a senior, has caught 68 passes for 876 yards and 12 touchdowns for the Boilermakers, who play host to Ball State in their season finale Saturday.

A junior, Ridgeway's 95 catches for 1,184 yards and seven touchdowns are the best numbers among the finalists. Ball State (2-8) closes its season Saturday at Central Michigan.

Big loss leaves Texans searching for some soul

By JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans couldn't stop the league's best offense, couldn't move the ball against the league's worst defense and couldn't figure out what went wrong afterward.

The Indianapolis Colts ruled past Houston 49-14 on Sunday in a defeat that equaled the Texans' worst loss in franchise history.

But this could have been chalked up as any other bad loss — something that happens weekly in the NFL to even good teams — if not for the musings of disgruntled defensive tackle Gary Walker, who's given to saying a lot of quotable but forgettable things after a Texans defeat.

Walker said one thing that should worry anyone with a rooting interest in the Texans: "How can you establish an identity when you don't know from week to week what you're doing?" Walker said.

That is a telling comment about these Texans as they prepare to host the Green Bay Packers on Sunday night.

The Texans looked like the NFL's next contender in winning four of five earlier this season, capping that streak with a dominating victory over Jacksonville. Then came two consecutive flogos not so coincidentally with something — the playoffs — actually at stake for the first time in franchise history.

Houston (4-5) still has an outside chance to make the playoffs. But could it be that the Texans have no idea how to get there? All the chatter coming from the locker room in the hours after the game and a day later focused on identity — or the team's lack of it — thus far. To be so confused about that nine games into the third season of the Dom Capers era is alarming.

Usually some sort of pattern



AP

Texans quarterback David Carr walks off the field after throwing an interception that was returned for a TD by the Colts on Sunday.

has developed, or some sort of thread can be found in these peaks and valleys of a 16-game season, let alone two of them. But the Texans have come back empty when searching for answer.

How long is too long to wait for a sign? Capers is a very nice guy, a capable enough coach and an improving tactical evaluator, someone who put together fearsome defenses in Pittsburgh and Jacksonville and led the second-year Carolina Panthers to within a victory of a Super Bowl in their third year.

Then again, the weeks eventually came off these Capers-led Panthers shortly after their playoff run and they were forced to start all over again. Houston is coming along a little slower than

Carolina, which is good, but doesn't seem even close to challenging for the postseason, which is obviously bad.

Losing is one thing. But losing badly is quite another.

The Texans showed absolutely no spark at all against the Colts until Peyton Manning kept throwing the ball late in the fourth quarter, with Indianapolis holding a 35-point lead. That's when they finally starting showing back, stirring up a few skirmishes in the game's waning minutes. But by then it was too late.

During his postgame comments, Walker summed it up perfectly: "We're soft."

Denver and Indianapolis played with a desperation and fire that Texans fans haven't seen since their tremendous second-half rally against Minnesota. Houston lost that game in overtime, but they won plenty of respect around the league for showing such surge against a dynamic team like the Vikings.

That, at least for the moment, has been lost.

Capers bears a lot of responsibility for his team's blatant attitude. He's so even-keeled, so calm, so analytical, that often it comes across as robotic. That can often be an asset in the NFL, where a team's fortunes can change in nearly every week, but sometimes it backfires with teams as used to losing as the Texans.

Screaming doesn't always help, but it can't hurt. The Texans have resembled a rudderless ship in the past two games, seemingly running around without much direction or leadership. The identity to speak of.

That's what Carolina looked like before everything came crashing down. Walker realized that, too.

"We certainly don't want the way we played (against the Colts) to be our identity," Capers said. "That's probably why that term came up."

Rest assured, the word will come up yet again if the Texans can't turn it around on Sunday.

NFL statistics

AFC individual leaders

Week 11	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Manning, Ind.	292	217	2749	31	6
Brees, S.D.	242	160	1654	9	3
Mederslager, Pitt.	171	117	1359	13	3
Pennington, N.Y.	216	144	1484	9	3
Green, K.C.	266	195	1463	13	3
Brady, N.E.	281	166	2127	17	8
Stacy, Minn.	303	177	1603	10	8
Carr, Hou.	291	186	2377	9	8
Lefkovich, Jac.	272	177	1881	9	6
Vokes, Tex.	179	109	1012	6	2

Quarterbacks

Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD
Martin, N.Y.	218	984	45	20
Brady, N.E.	180	900	44	14
Holmes, K.C.	195	896	42	13
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Brown, Tex.	186	872	47	52
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10

Running backs

Att	Yds	Av	LG	TD
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
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Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10

Punters

No	Yds	Av	LG	TD
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10

Kickoff returns

No	Yds	Av	LG	TD
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
Stacy, Minn.	197	877	40	10
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Defensive individual leaders

Week 11	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Culpepper, Min.	142	99	1113	11	2
Gries, T.B.	227	139	1043	8	2
McNabb, Phil.	227	139	1043	8	2
Farre, G.B.	239	153	2243	18	8
Blair, N.Y.	317	192	2012	13	8
Ratley, S.F.	235	150	1270	10	8
Barner, N.Y.C.	216	144	1484	9	3
Tate, Tex.	239	150	1270	10	8
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Defensive team statistics

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ABC apologizes for racy M&F intro

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — ABC apologized Tuesday for a steamy intro to "Monday Night Football" after receiving complaints from viewers and the NFL.

The spot featured a naked Nicole Sheridan jumping into the arms of Terrell Owens.

Before the Philadelphia-Dallas game, ABC showed Owens and Sheridan in an empty locker room in an attempt to spoof the network hit "Desperate Housewives." Sheridan, who stars in the show, was wearing only a towel and provocatively asked Owens to stop the game for her.

After she dropped her towel, he agreed to be late for the contest and hugged her. Then the shot

panned out to two more stars of "Desperate Housewives," Teri Hatcher and Felicity Huffman, watching the scene unfold on television and commenting on desperate women.

"We have heard from many of our viewers about last night's M&F opening segment and we agree that the placement was inappropriate," ABC said in a statement. "We apologize."

The NFL called the intro "inappropriate and unsuitable for our 'Monday Night Football' audience."

"While ABC may have gained attention for one of its top 25 shows, the NFL and its fans lost," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said. The Eagles said they appreciated ABC apologizing for the segment.

"It is normal for teams to cooperate with ABC in the development of an opening for its broadcast," the team said.

"After seeing the final piece, we wish it hadn't aired."

ABC has broadcast "Monday Night Football" with a 5-second delay in seasons, a precaution after Janet Jackson's wardrobe malfunction at February's Super Bowl.

At halftime of New England's victory over Carolina in the Super Bowl, Justin Timberlake ripped off part of Jackson's brassiere, exposing her right breast to a TV audience of some 90 million. The Super Bowl broadcast on CBS, which was subsequently fined a record \$550,000 by the FCC.

Team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Kansas City	421	164	257.9	19	12
Indianapolis	411	162	259.6	18	12
Baltimore	383	178	248.1	18	12
Houston	351	138	204.7	14	12
New England	348	145	202.4	14	12
New York Jets	346	145	202.4	14	12
Pittsburgh	336	162	173.7	13	12
San Diego	323	129	193.9	13	12
Tennessee	321	126	202.3	13	12
Oakland	297	118	186.0	12	12
Cincinnati	297	118	186.0	12	12
Miami	291	117	184.8	12	12
Buffalo	262	102	193.8	12	12
Baltimore	257	117	173.7	12	12

Defenses

166.1	Washington	267.1	85.7	181.4
178.4	Tampa Bay	259.1	125.5	168.2
177.6	New York Giants	299.8	117.1	182.7
150.1	Chicago	322.1	117.9	204.2
206.1	Seattle	329.7	108.1	221.6
206.6	Carolina	331.0	138.6	192.4
204.0	Arizona	334.9	128.9	206.0
239.8	San Francisco	335.8	116.4	219.3
219.7	Atlanta	342.7	94.9	247.8
214.4	Green Bay	343.8	111.1	232.7
199.7	Philadelphia	345.0	124.0	214.0
225.4	Detroit	352.1	127.4	224.1
235.9	Dallas	356.8	126.7	230.1
241.4	St. Louis	362.7	140.1	222.6
273.9	Minnesota	366.2	121.3	244.9
	New Orleans	424.0	149.0	275.0

49ers' Erickson: Rattay 'will be our QB next year'

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Whether the tendons in Tim Rattay's forearm are torn, strained or just plain tired, it didn't explain his mental mistakes in the San Francisco 49ers' latest loss.

Rattay's ninth career start probably was his worst. He threw four interceptions and committed a key fumble, helping the Carolina Panthers recover from a 17-point deficit in their 37-27 victory.

But Rattay will be the starter for San Francisco (1-8) for the rest of the season — and next season too, according to coach Dennis Erickson, who gave a strong vote of confidence to his beleaguered quarterback after the Niners' second-half collapse in their fourth straight defeat.

When asked if the 49ers might want to play third-stringer Cody Pickett before deciding whether to use their presumably high draft pick on a quarterback in April, Erickson said: "There would be no reason for it that I could see. Tim Rattay is our quarterback and will be our quarterback next year."

Though his numbers are unimpressive, Rattay had been one of the 49ers' better players until Sunday, when he didn't exactly live up to his reputation as a smart quarterback. Rattay spent the night berating himself for his turnovers, which were turned into 17 points by the Panthers.

He misread simple coverages and got fooled into poor throws. He didn't show calm under constant pressure by the Panthers, who blitzed on 26 of the Niners' 35 plays in the second half.

And he didn't hold on to the ball when Will Witherspoon sacked him in San Francisco territory with six minutes to play. Mike Rucker recovered the fumble, which set up Carolina's go-ahead field goal.

"There's no excuse," Rattay said. "There's things that I can't do. I'm going to learn from it."

Erickson's confidence in Rattay is helped by the inconsistent play of backup Ken Dorsey. While Rattay sat out three games this season with injuries, Dorsey struggled to a 53.9 quarterback rating, throwing four interceptions and no touchdown passes.

Injury-riddled Bucs bring back Super Bowl MVP Jackson

TAMPA, Fla. — Desperate for help at safety, the injury-riddled Tampa Bay Buccaneers turned to a familiar face — former Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson.

He rejoined his old team Tuesday, five weeks after being let go by the Arizona Cardinals. To make room on the roster, running back Jamal White was released.



San Francisco quarterback Tim Rattay committed five turnovers in Sunday's 37-27 loss to Carolina.

Jackson signed a five-year, \$14 million contract with Arizona after intercepting two passes and being selected MVP of Tampa Bay's 48-21 rout of Oakland in the Super Bowl two seasons ago.

The 27-year-old safety had a career-high six interceptions for the Cardinals in 2003. He was released last month after being sidelined since training camp with a back injury.

The Bucs need help in the secondary because of injuries to starting safeties Jermaine Phillips and Dwight Smith, whose emergence was one of the reasons Jackson was considered expendable after the 2002 season.

Phillips has a broken right forearm and will miss Sunday's game against San Francisco and possibly the remainder of the season. Smith is questionable to play against the 49ers after spraining his right knee last Sunday.

Browns waive RB James Jackson

CLEVELAND — The Browns waived running back James Jackson on Tuesday to make room for rookie Adimichino Echemandu on their roster.

Jackson ran for 554 yards and two touchdowns in 11 games as a rookie in 2001, but carried the ball just 12 times the following year after the arrival of William Green.

Jackson complained during this year's training camp about his diminished role behind Green and Lee Suggs and asked for a trade.

Trio fined \$10,000 for pregame fight in Cleveland

NEW YORK — Linebacker Joey Porter of Pittsburgh and running back William Green of Cleveland were fined \$10,000 each by the NFL on Tuesday for their fight before Sunday's game in Cleveland.

The Browns' Terrelle Smith was fined the same amount for getting involved in the altercation.

Porter and Green were both ejected after the fight, which occurred less than an hour before Pittsburgh's 24-10 victory.

Under Green, Cards show improved hand

BY MARK MASKE

The Washington Post

The first half of Dennis Green's first season as coach of the Arizona Cardinals was tumultuous. He reworked his offensive line almost constantly and continued to revamp his coaching staff. His team had to play without injured wide receiver Anquan Boldin, and lost five of their first seven games.

But Boldin is back in the lineup, and the Cardinals (4-5) suddenly look like a team that could be dangerous in the second half of the season. They have won two straight games, are 3-1 at home and are only a game behind the division-leading St. Louis Rams and Seattle Seahawks in the weak NFC West. Their latest victory was a 17-14, come-from-behind triumph Sunday over the fading New York Giants.

"We felt we beat a good team," Green said during a news conference on Monday, "and that means we're a step closer to being a good team. ... It's not all bad being 4-5 if you're playing a certain way when you're 4-5. In a turnaround program, we have our backs against the wall every week. That's a good place to be because it lets us show our mettle — what we are really made out of and what we are really seeing."

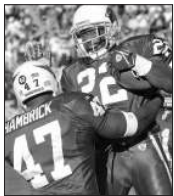
Green led the Minnesota Vikings to eight playoff appearances in 10 seasons as their coach between 1992 and 2001, but inherited a Cardinals team that had managed only one winning season in 19 years.

The transition was far from seamless. He released incumbent starting quarterback Jeff Blake in February and decided to go with third-year pro Josh McCown. He made 35-year-old Emmitt Smith, the NFL's career rushing leader, his starting tailback at the end of summer practices. He benched left tackle L.J. Shelton, moved Leonard Davis from guard to tackle and cut starting center Pete Kendall just before training camp.

When that didn't work out, Green benched right guard Cameron Spikes and right tackle Anthony Clement last month and replaced them with Jeremy Bridges and Shelton. He fired veteran offensive line coach Bob Whylie six games into the season and replaced him with rookie coach Everett Lindsay, after bringing in longtime associate Carl Hargrave as an offensive consultant in late September.

But now, with Boldin back from a knee injury to go with fellow wideouts Larry Fitzgerald and Bryant Johnson, Green has his three-receiver offense intact. And he has a defense that sacked Giants quarterback Kurt Warner six times and produced a victory Sunday despite gaining only 178 yards. Defensive end Bertrand Berry, signed as a free agent from Denver in the offseason, had four sacks Sunday and has nine sacks this season.

"It starts the first day, establishing what kind of program you're going to have, what your expectations are, how it could be really good, it could be fun, you could fit in, you could really enjoy yourself, but we're going to have it a certain way," Green said. "I think that we've got some guys who have really believed that."



Running backs Emmitt Smith (22) and Troy Hambrick (47) are trying to help the Cardinals stop their second winning season since 1985. Arizona is 4-5.



Top Scores for Week 10

204	trennison	Alpha Co 1-133rd INF
196	jchapp	31 MXG WS
194	Buckeye Packer	USNDC Okinawa
194	Mickifiki	Camp Cooke
190	Joeyg188	Ramstein Air Base
190	AFERG 30	423RD
188	sparkjoseph2000	2-146 FA
186	Smokey Johnson	HQ USAFE/AF3F
186	DolFan	CHPPM-Europe
186	IndyCop	Campbell Barracks

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Best Overall Scores

glants#1	hbc 2/37 ar
STEELFROGWOOD	MAG-
Allison	18 CES
Jaguar One	DoDDS
JackS8	422 ABS RAF Croughton
arcbj	European Stars & Stripes
Joe Corleio	Misawa
Chickybowow	726 AMS
SPIELMEISTER 04D	Hohenfels
NEOBIT	USFJ

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

Arizona slips in second half, still wins in NIT

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Arizona Wildcats won their 13th consecutive Preseason NIT game Tuesday night — but this was no spectacular debut for a team that has its sights on the Final Four.

Mustafa Shakur scored 23 points and Ivan Radenovic 20 — both career highs — in the 10th-ranked Wildcats' often-sloppy 80-69 victory over San Diego.

Salim Stoudamire also scored 20 for the Wildcats, who are 1-3 overall in the Preseason NIT. Arizona won the tournament in its last three appearances — 1990, 1995, 1999.

The Wildcats knew that they didn't play up to their potential.

"The first half was excellent. The second half was disgusting," Stoudamire said. "I wanted to win, and I wanted to win by a lot. I thought we should have won by 40."

The Wildcats led 41-23 at halftime.

Arizona hosts Wright State in the second round Thursday night. The winner goes to the semifinals in New York next week.

Brice Voungang, San Diego's 6-foot-8, 250-pound center with a soft shooting touch, matched his career best with 28 points and had 11 rebounds for the Toreros. Brandon Gay added 17 points.

"He had a great game," Toreros coach Brad Holland said of Voungang. "He was all-conference last season, and he's taking the pressure well. He did a great job on Channing Frye. We didn't have to double him. He did a good job one-on-one with him."

Shakur, the team's sophomore playmaker who averaged just six shots a game last season, was 7-for-12 in Arizona's season opener.

Radenovic, in his second season with the

Wildcats from Serbia and Montenegro, was 8-for-17 and grabbed 10 rebounds.

San Diego, coming off a 4-26 season and 1-13 in the West Coast Conference, trailed only 14-10 after Voungang's 10-footer with 11:42 to play in the half. But Shakur banked in a three-pointer to start at 16-0 Arizona run that made it 30-12 on Radenovic's fastbreak layup with 5:15 left in the half.

Shakur scored eight, Stoudamire five and Radenovic three during the surge.

From that point on, the outmanned Toreros outscored Arizona 57-50.

"One of the things I was a little disappointed in was we did not do a good job of really closing them out," said coach Lute Olson, beginning his 22nd season at Arizona. "We just didn't show that killer instinct that we need to have."

But Shakur and Radenovic, with late help from Stoudamire, overcame Arizona's poor shooting to lead the Wildcats to victory.

"We did a good job at times, but we let up in the end. We have to work on that," Shakur said.

Olson praised Voungang.

"I'm not sure we're going to play anybody tougher than he is," Olson said, "because if you forced him to step out and get the ball, which was our first intent, the guy has got the softest touch off the glass that I've seen in a long time. He was a load."

The Wildcats had 10 turnovers in the first half and San Diego 12. Shakur scored 12, and Stoudamire and Radenovic 10 apiece in the first 10 minutes.

Hassan Adams, who led Arizona in scoring last season at 17.3 points per game, was 0-for-3 shooting and committed three turnovers in a scoreless first half. He wound up 3-for-12 for six points.



Arizona's Mustafa Shakur, right, dribbles around the pressing defense of San Diego's Corey Belser during a Preseason NIT game on Tuesday. Shakur scored 23 points.

Brett Melton's three-pointer started a 9-0 run that cut Arizona's lead to 59-47 on Avi Fogel's driving layup with 9:25 left.

The teams traded baskets, then Radenovic

scored inside on a pass from Frye. Stoudamire sank an 18-footer and a 14-foot floater from the baseline and Arizona was up 67-49 with five minutes to go.

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SPORTS



Expos sign shortstop Guzman,
3B Castilla in preparation for
move to Washington, Page 45

Suns shine behind Nash

Ex-Mav dishes out 18 assists in return to Dallas

BY JAIME ARON

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Steve Nash made the strange walk to the visitors' locker room, relieved at having his first game against the Dallas Mavericks out of the way.

And thrilled with how it turned out.

Nash scored 17 points and had 18 assists, many setting up Amare Stoudemire's 34 points, leading the Phoenix Suns past the Dallas Mavericks 107-101 on Tuesday night.

"I can't think of a more emotional game that I've had than this one," Nash said. "I didn't have any tears, but I was definitely nervous. I think it's just natural. There were so many memories here."

Nash's assists were the most this season in the NBA, topping the 17 he had in an overtime loss at Cleveland last Wednesday. It also was one shy of his career best. The only downer was that he had the wrong kind of triple-double — points, assists and turnovers. He gave the ball away 10 times, four in the third quarter, after doing so just 18 times in the first six games this season.

"They're trying to get used to me and I'm trying to get used to them — as you can see by my 10 turnovers," Nash said.

Although Nash broke into the league with Phoenix, he's best known for the last six years in Dallas.

With him pushing the offense, the Mavs became one of the NBA's top teams and he became one of the most popular players in town. He was a free agent last summer and wanted to stay, but couldn't resist when Phoenix offered \$60 million guaranteed in July.

The locals didn't hold a grudge. "Thanks Steve" and "Welcome Back Nash" were among the signs waived by fans and there were plenty of kids wearing his No. 13 Dallas jerseys, including one youngster holding a poster that said, "Nash has been to my house."

"It's overwhelming to see that kind of support," Nash said.

After a nice ovation during pregame introductions, Nash made his way along the Dallas bench shaking hands, slapping backs and embracing coaches Don Nelson and Del Harris and former teammate Michael Finley.



Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash, left, looks to pass the ball over Dallas Mavericks guard Marquis Daniels on Tuesday in Dallas. Nash, who spent the past six seasons with the Mavericks, scored 17 points for the Suns.

Then Nash made himself right at home, scoring or assisting on 12 of Phoenix's first 17 baskets. He opened the second half with a three-pointer and another jumper and soon after the Suns were up by 15.

But the Mavericks rallied to tie

and even led by five early in the fourth quarter, despite losing center Erick Dampier (strained hip) and backup point guard Jason Terry (sprained ankle) in the first half and being without Dirk Nowitzki for about 10 crucial minutes after he picked up his fifth foul with 3:39 left in the third quarter.

Nowitzki tied it at 93 with 4:28 left, then Stoudemire put Phoenix up for good with a driving layup. Nash fed Shawn Marion for a jumper that stretched the lead and the Suns were off on a 10-2 run that sealed the victory.

SEE NASH ON PAGE 46



**Streiking Sonics
fired up after
sinking Sixers with
three-point attack**

Page 46



**Texans searching
for answers after
dispiriting rout**

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**Ohio State coach
defends school,
program against
charges made
by ex-star Clarett**

Page 47

No. 10 Arizona struggles in Preseason NIT win Page 50

